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Car sales and credit on the rise

Shepherd sees glimmer of hope in jobless trend

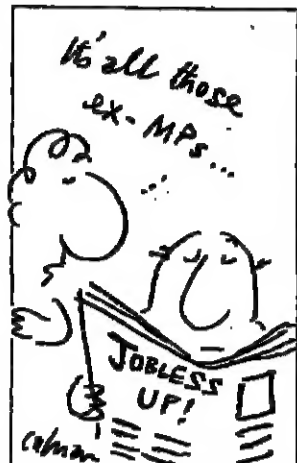
By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of people out of work increased by 7,400 in March, the smallest monthly rise for almost two years.

Gillian Shepherd, the new employment secretary, spoke of "glimmers of hope" but, while cautioning against attaching too much to one month's figures, she said that the apparent fall in the rate of job losses was accompanied by other encouraging signs. "The number of people becoming unemployed has eased over recent months, and more people are leaving unemployment and getting back to work," she said.

Britain's biggest credit information group, Infolink, yesterday reported a rise in credit enquiries and used-car sales in the immediate aftermath of the election. Applications for retail, motor and home loans were up 5.5 per cent, supporting predictions from employers that sales in the high street should resume their growth this month after a retraction in March attributed to election jitters.

Sales of new cars jumped by 20 per cent in the five days



after polling day over the same period last year, manufacturers said yesterday, although George Simpson, chairman of the Rover Group, cautioned against rushing into over-optimism.

There is also evidence of an improvement in the competitiveness of manufacturers. The year on year growth in output per head, at 4.3 per cent, was the best for more than two years. The amount of short-time working also fell, there was a modest rise in overtime and the number of days lost to industrial action remained at an all-time low.

These successes, however, must be set against figures which showed that the number employed in manufacturing fell by 31,000 during February to 4,581,000. That suggests job losses in manufacturing accounted for more than three out of four of the total increase in unemployment during February, reckoned at 37,800.

Mrs Shepherd said the economy was now keeping up with efficiency gains by main international competitors. "This and growing business confidence should mean better news for jobs and those out of work," she said. Nonetheless, Britain's unemployment rate, at 9.6 per cent, remains the third worst in Europe, after Ireland, at 17 per cent, and Spain, at 16.5. The total unemployed rose for the 23rd consecutive month

to reach 2,652,400, 9.4 per cent of the workforce. The monthly total before seasonal adjustment was down for the first time since October by 3,010 to 2,707,477.

Mrs Shepherd took the opportunity to signal a shift in policy at the employment department: "I will be looking at the range of measures on offer to ensure that as we come out of the recession they offer people effective help in getting back to work."

Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, said the trend was still firmly upwards. "Even on the government's figures there are still almost 2.7 million unemployed with the numbers of long-term unemployed rising sharply," he said.

City commentators, who had been expecting an underlying increase of around 35,000, were surprised at the apparent flattening in the rate of job losses. John Sheppard, chief UK economist with merchant bank SG Warburg, said the figures were "surprisingly good", adding: "We are clearly past the worst of the unemployment increases but we are likely to see some erratic figures for a time."

The number out of work actually fell, after seasonal adjustment, in the North West (to 10.3 per cent), the North (11), Wales (9.4) and Scotland (9.2), but continued to rise strongly in the South East (to 8.8 per cent) and East Anglia (7.2), which have seen some of the biggest rises during the recession. Unemployment in these two areas is still below the national average.

Northern Ireland, with 14.3 per cent out of work, remains a blackspot, while in greater London, where 407,000 are now without jobs, the 10.1 per cent unemployment is now the fourth worst in Britain after Northern Ireland, the North West and the West Midlands.

Jobs challenge, page 2
Factory boost, page 17
L&T section, page 4



Hard work: Mrs Shepherd, the employment secretary, at a Jobcentre yesterday

4,000 Lloyd's names face personal financial ruin

By JONATHAN FREYNN

UP TO 4,000 Lloyd's names could face personal financial ruin as a result of a landmark High Court judgment yesterday.

Mr Justice Saville ruled against a group of more than 800 names who were trying to prevent Lloyd's from seizing their assets to pay their underwriting losses. They were on syndicates hit by claims from catastrophes such as Piper Alpha and Hurricane Hugo. The judgment means that Lloyd's can proceed with arrangements to draw on financial assets put up by the names as security when they joined Lloyd's. These can include bank guarantees on homes.

A new action group for names who will be effectively bankrupted by their Lloyd's losses is to be formed next week. One estimated that up to 4,000 names will be ruined.

Technically, Lloyd's is never responsible for a name being made legally bankrupt. More than 900 names have already applied to the Lloyd's hardship committee, which has the discretion to pay off a ruined name's outstanding debts in return for an agreed

programme of repayments during the name's life.

In most cases the names are required to sell their homes and more valuable assets and move to smaller premises. Their living expenses will also be largely determined by the committee. After the death of the name, Lloyd's can claim the name's remaining assets.

Lloyd's went to court to

defend the primacy of unlimited liability which underpins the financial security of the market. One name involved in the High Court legal action said: "This just shows that when you sign on the dotted line at Lloyd's your liability goes beyond your last cuff-link."

Names fail, page 17
Comment, page 21

Yard bans notes plastic

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard is to ban police officers from using a special plastic sheet in their notebooks after lawyers said that it made testing for the doctored notes impossible.

In a letter in *The Times* today, Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, says that the thin plastic sheet used for the last seven months is to be abandoned immediately.

He acted after criticism from lawyers and in the media that the instruction to officers on surveillance operations to use the stiff plastic sheet was a manoeuvre to

Afghan leader ousted as rebels close in

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

PRESIDENT Najibullah, Afghanistan's former communist leader, who clung to power as the mujahidin rebels closed in on Kabul, was yesterday overthrown and turned back when trying to flee the country.

Ghulam Yaqubi, the head of security, committed suicide as mujahidin rebels surrounded the capital, closing the book on an administration abandoned by Moscow and encircled by its Muslim fundamentalist enemies. Many of the former president's close associates now fear reprisals. A four-man council has taken over the running of the country.

Western governments fear a bloodbath. The rebels who have fought the communist-dominated government since 1978, came within 25 miles of Kabul. Many of the rebel groups, united only in their hatred of the communists and their former Soviet backers, have already begun to quarrel among themselves.

Dr Najibullah, a former secret police chief installed by the Kremlin six years ago, attempted to make a getaway with one of his brothers but was turned away from Kabul airport by troops. He was reported to have taken refuge in a United Nations office, although there were rumours that he had been arrested. His wife and three children fled to India several days ago.

Dr Najibullah had been ready to resign to make way for a transitional government and elections under the United Nations peace plan. The end of his rule came suddenly, however, as the guerrillas made a final push for Kabul. Abdul Wakil, the foreign minister, told a news conference that the president had been replaced by four vice-presidents of the ruling Watan (homeland) party.

Kabul radio attacked Dr Najibullah for resigning illegally and leaving a power vacuum. It appealed to the army and civil service to help set up a transitional council.

Mr Wakil last night accused Dr Najibullah of deception. He had been hated by the mujahidin and by his

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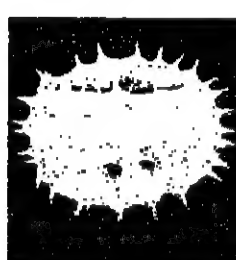
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THE TIMES

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HOPES



Easter's rise in church attendance works wonders for the rural clergy
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Allergic to pollen? Some of the cures on offer you'd be wise to avoid
Life & Times
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EASTER
CHALLENGE

JUMBO

Tackle our Jumbo crossword tomorrow. You could win £50

Remand in Semtex case

Amid a high-security police operation, James Canning, 36, and Ethel Lamb, 60, were remanded in custody at an east London court charged with conspiring to cause explosions in central London and possessing Semtex explosive and six assault rifles. Page 3

Into the fray

Ken Livingstone entered Labour's leadership contest. He cheekily suggested John Smith as his deputy, but attacked his tax plans as instrumental in losing Labour the election. Page 2

Boy assaulted

A four-year-old boy was sexually assaulted and strangled in his bed in a Plymouth lodging house run by his parents. Page 5

Tourist killed

Parents of a 27-year-old British woman killed in the French Quarter of New Orleans flew there as police hunted for the mugger who shot her. Page 5

Boot test

Car boot sale enthusiasts could try to get their money back on faulty purchases under the Sale of Goods Act. Page 8

Leading article, page 13

Serb advance

As Serb troops took the key city of Visegrad, Britain condemned the violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina as an attempt by Serb extremists to destroy the EC-brokered constitution. Page 10

Trying better

The try's value in rugby union has been increased by one point to five in an attempt to produce a more open game. Page 27, 28

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Abandoned van holds up holiday getaway

By JOHN VINCENT

MOTORISTS hoping for a quick escape from work at the start of the Easter holiday faced frustration and long delays last night when they were turned back at junction 1 of the M1 in north London. Police closed both carriageways for 90 minutes because of a suspect vehicle causing big hold-ups. Explosives experts faced long delays in reaching the scene.

Rail passengers were equally exasperated. All trains passing through Mill Hill were halted, British Rail said. Services into St Pancras and the Thameslink were affected. A BR spokesman said: "We were asked to suspend all movements at 17.50 to-night while they investigate the van. Trains were crowded with people going off for the

weekend." Rail services resumed after the van was cleared at 7.21 pm.

The motorway was closed at the start of the rush hour after a patrol spotted a suspicious vehicle on the hard shoulder. Drivers eager to escape found the motorway closed in both directions from Mill Hill, north London, to Scratchwood Services.

Earlier, drivers heading north on the M1 had been treated to 31 miles of what the AA described as "heavy and slow" traffic, from the M25 as far as Newport Pagnell.

Twelve people, including six children, were taken to hospital after a coach collided

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Instant sunshine, page 3

Millie's memoirs make her White House top dog

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

EVEN in the depth of recession, Americans might expect their leader to earn more money than his dog. But this year President Bush failed to do so, according to the annual tax statement from the White House. Millie, the White House springer spaniel reported a healthy income of \$900,000 (£512,000) — more than four times the salary of the leader of the free world.

The money came from Millie's memoirs, an under-the-table look at life in the Bush family which spent some 20 weeks near the top of the best-seller lists last year. Even more galling for the beleaguered president, the First Dog scored royalties far beyond the paltry \$2,700 brought in by *Looking Forward*, Mr Bush's own autobiography. "This is somewhat



Millie: dictated memoirs

embarrassing, but the president is taking it very well," said Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, putting a jocular gloss on the matter. Sensitive to the fact that

Millie's tell-all tale had put the Bushes into the \$1 million-a-year category, the White House was quick to recall that most of the proceeds were given to a charity which promotes literacy. This was deemed a highly appropriate choice by struggling writers who did not take kindly to canine prose outselling their efforts.

Many have objected to the fact that the *New York Times* placed Millie's Book in the non-fiction list. Some even suggested that both it and the memoirs of Ronald Reagan, which came out at the same time and sold fewer copies, should be relegated to the fantasy section.

In her writings, said to be "dictated" to Barbara Bush, Mildred Kerr Bush remains discreet on matters of state, preferring to focus on social life, such as her acquaintance with such dog-friendly figures as Margaret Thatcher, Gerald Ford and the

Jordanian royal family. She delivers some advice on power name dropping: "Remember... never say 'I know Henry Kissinger'. Rather, we say 'Henry Kissinger knows me'." Her syntax is, however, not always felicitous like her master's. "I chased a little red fox for one night. George saw him racing across the lawn with his long red tail straight out behind him," she writes. "He was so thin he ran through the fence."

Though dog-lovers and children were the main intended customers for *Millie's Book*, it has become essential reading for political operators and academics who subscribe to Kafka's view that "all knowledge, the totality of all questions and answers, is contained in the dog." In their view, Millie's sentiments are the carefully disguised sentiments of George Bush. And it was, of course, really written by Mrs Bush.

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Livingstone enters fray as champion of Southern Man

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

THE contest for the Labour leadership was given added zest yesterday when Ken Livingstone entered the fray presenting himself as the unlikely champion of the middle income southerner.

Mr Livingstone attacked John Smith's shadow budget tax policies which he said were instrumental in losing Labour the election. He launched his challenge to Mr Smith, the shadow chancellor, and Bryan Gould, shadow environment spokesman, at a Westminster press conference. He dismissed suggestions that his campaign could fall at the first hurdle by failing to attract nominations from 55 MPs which he needed.

It was Labour's policy failure, above all on taxation, which failed to win voters," he said. "Simply changing the leader without changing policy is therefore not enough. Furthermore John Smith, as shadow chancellor, bears the chief responsibility for this failure of Labour's economic and taxation policy." He also attacked what he called Mr Smith's unsuccessful attempts at "cuddling up to the City over endless prawn cocktails".

Mr Livingstone, MP for Brent East, north London,

said that Mr Smith's tax plans had wrongly hit skilled workers in the South. "The policy of taxing middle income families cost us the election."

The former leader of the defunct Greater London Council said that the next general election could be lost in the next 12 weeks if the party merely decided to change personalities at the top. As the election neared the polls showed that the Conservatives had increased their lead on tax and the economy. In the event the swing to Labour was over 3.5 per cent in the South where the average family income was less than £245 a week but only 2 per cent where it was over £275, Mr Livingstone said.

Labour should have kept the 50 per cent tax rate but opted for the national insurance ceiling to have been lifted at £26,000 instead of £21,000, a move which would have affected only the top 5 per cent of taxpayers, he said. Labour's spending pledges on child benefit and pensions would have been paid for by cutting the defence budget by £7 billion a year to bring military spending in line with the European average.

Presenting his own shadow budget, which he said had

been drawn up before Mr Smith's budget. Mr Livingstone called for an immediate 2 per cent cut in interest rates, a 15 per cent devaluation of the pound to a central rate of 2.50 DM and a cut in VAT to counter any inflationary pressure created by devaluation. "Failure to adopt radical economic policies meant that Labour had spending pledged which could only be financed by taxing those who were its potential supporters."

His criticism of Bryan Gould was less forthright. "Bryan Gould has now argued for devaluation, which I welcome, but voted for economic policy review documents which ruled it out."

Earlier Mr Livingstone cheekily suggested that he would be happy if Mr Smith ran as his deputy if he found himself squeezed out of the leadership contest. Since then he has made clear he is seeking a female deputy.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4 he warned of a hidden agenda in Mr Smith's camp of formal pacts with the Liberal Democrats which might not emerge until the leadership election was over. Mr Livingstone challenged the other two contestants to television and radio debates to discuss the policies needed to win the next election instead of "sound bites and bits of backstabbing and off the record briefings".

The left-wing campaign group of Labour MPs which has put Mr Livingstone forward as their candidate can normally rely on about only 30 votes from MPs. However, Mr Livingstone, a campaign-

er for homosexual and ethnic minority rights, who once accused Labour colleagues of spending their time in the despoils of Soho, said that he had had telephone calls pledging support from the most unlikely quarters. "I am not in politics for gestures," he said. "I am in politics because I wish to achieve

power and to transform Britain and its economy." He also dismissed as hopeless naivety the view of some Labour MPs that last week's cut in the Conservative majority made a Labour victory inevitable at the next election.

Meanwhile the left-wing Tribune newspaper has accused the trade unions of

bouncing Labour into an instant leadership election. It said in a forthright editorial: "If the move to rush the leadership elections was not an attempt to stifle discussion and fix the result for John Smith, it looked remarkably like one."

Leading article, page 13



Taken as red: Mr Livingstone, who says he is in politics not to make gestures but to achieve power

Deadly bee disease spreads to Somerset

A case of the deadly bee disease varroasis has been detected outside Devon, confirming fears of agriculture ministry scientists that the infection might spread (Nick Nuttall writes).

The ministry's service centre in Exeter said yesterday that the infection, by a mite that feeds on the blood of bees and deforms larvae developing in combs, had been verified near Ilminster, Somerset. Ministry scientists were meeting apiculture owners on how to tackle the outbreak.

The agriculture ministry has at the same time announced a county-wide exclusion zone covering the movement of bees, hives, combs and bee-keeping equipment into and out of Devon after the number of confirmed cases rose to 36.

The first British case of varroasis was confirmed at Cockington earlier this month. More cases were later reported at Okehampton.

Until nearly two weeks ago, Britain was thought to have been free of the Varroa jacobsoni mite, which has devastated bee colonies on the Continent since 1980.

Baby's mother is charged

Maxine Davies, 29, of Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, was charged yesterday with attempting to cause grievous bodily harm to Tara Calnan, her five-month-old daughter who has been missing since Monday.

Magistrates at Harrogate remanded her in custody for a week. Reporting restrictions were not lifted and there was no application for bail. Efforts by police to search for Tara in the river Nidd near Harrogate were hampered yesterday because the flow had become a torrent after three days of rain.

Death in ditch

A woman died and her husband suffered serious head injuries when they slipped and fell into a four-foot ditch yesterday. Kath Donelan, 59, of South Elmsall, West Yorkshire, tumbled into the freezing ditch, pulling her husband Danny, 61, after her, police believe. They were heading home from a social club. Mr Donelan was found seven hours later and taken to hospital.

Drugs enquiry

Almost 40 British soldiers serving in Germany are being investigated for alleged drugs offences after a raid on a warehouse party in Hanover attended by 130 soldiers as well as locals at which cannabis and Ecstasy were allegedly sold. Seventy were questioned by the army's special investigations branch. Since then, 37 have faced further investigation. No charges have yet been made.

Swimmer saved

Lee Price, 17, of Sopley, Dorset, was rescued four miles off Bournemouth trying to swim to shore against the tide yesterday after the small cruiser on which he and his brother John, 13, were sailing broke down. He was wearing a shell suit and a lifebelt and had hypothermia. He was flown to hospital for a check-up. A passing yacht had found his brother adrift and alerted coastguards.

Free to go

Martin McGuinness, vice-president of Sinn Féin, was freed without charge by police in Dublin yesterday after being arrested on Wednesday night under Irish anti-terrorist legislation. Police gave no reason for holding or freeing Mr McGuinness, 42, from Londonderry. He could have been detained legally for up to 48 hours before being charged or released.

NO TV OVER EASTER SCANDAL

Our reliable source tells us that the entire population will switch off this Easter, and instead will be playing the brilliantly colourful fast strategy game SPECTRANGLE. Tune into SPECTRANGLE at W.H. Smith, Harrods, Hamleys, all leading department stores and good toy shops.

Fear of hell cut crime, Patten says

YOUNG people embark on criminal activity because they no longer believe that they will pay for their sins in hell, John Patten, the education secretary, said yesterday. He said that the dwindling belief in redemption and damnation had a profound effect on personal morality and, in particular, on criminal behaviour.

Mr Patten, a practising Roman Catholic, said: "Fear of eternal damnation was a message reinforced through attendance at church every week. The loss of that fear has meant a critical motive has been lost to young people when they decide whether to try to be good citizens or to be criminals."

In an article in *The Spectator*, he links low recorded and reported crime in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with high levels of attendance at church, where people were told that civility led to eternal life and bad-

Belief in eternal damnation kept Victorian youngsters out of jail, the new education secretary believes. Richard Ford reports

tendence and low crime figures. The now-derided Victorian values of God-fearingness and hope of redemption developed towards the end of the 19th century. They rose, with church attendance, to their apogee in Edwardian times. Despite unemployment at its highest levels, crime fell to its lowest precisely in that near-mythical age when no one bothered to lock his door and the world was a village.



He writes: "Death the gateway to eternal life has become Death the unthinkable. Health and safety at work regulations replace tough readings from the gospels, and even tougher ones from the Old Testament." As a former Home Office minister with some knowledge of the risk of quoting crime statistics, Mr Patten

concedes that there are many reasons why crime rates used to be lower. One, he suggests, is that there was less to steal.

Criminologists suggested that there could be others. Police might have recorded only those crimes that were cleared up. The rise of recorded crime could also be attributed to changes in police tactics and attitudes towards crimes such as rape or homosexuality, and the arrival of the motor car, which accounted for almost 30 per cent of the 5.3m offences recorded in England and Wales last year.

Home Office statistics show that, from 1876 to the mid 1920s, the annual recorded crime level in England and Wales was under 100,000, rising to 500,000 in 1950, passing 1.5 million in 1970 and more than five million in 1991. The population rose from less than 20 million in 1860 to more than 48 million in 1991.

Jubilee line funds expected

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

OLYMPIA & York, the troubled Docklands property developer, will be expected to adhere to its commitment to co-finance the £1.3 billion Jubilee line extension, John MacGregor, the new transport secretary, said yesterday.

Bankers negotiating terms for restructuring the company's finances are unlikely to pull out of the co-financing deal because of the importance of the Jubilee line for the long-term prospects of the Canary Wharf scheme, Mr MacGregor said. "We have a deal with Olympia & York, and we expect it to be honoured," he added.

The future of the line, which will link central and eastern London between Green Park and Stratford, via Canary Wharf, was enveloped in uncertainty earlier this month after Olympia & York failed to pay an initial £40 million of an agreed £400 million towards the project.

Steven Norris, London's new transport minister, said efforts would be made to "integrate" all transport.

Doctors welcome offer on budgets

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

PLANS to give every family doctor the kind of bargaining strength held by those managing their own budgets were unveiled yesterday by Virginia Bottomley, the new health secretary.

In one of her first full-length interviews since being promoted to the cabinet last weekend, Mrs Bottomley held out an olive branch to the medical profession. She said that she wanted every doctor and patient to benefit from the fund-holding changes.

Her move was welcomed by the British Medical Association, which has been pressing for the change for the past year. Mrs Bottomley said: "Fund-holding will remain voluntary and we want to talk to the medical profession about the next step. The aim is that all GPs should feel they can exercise leverage on behalf of their patients in securing quality improvements. The precise mechanism as more doctors become fund-holders is a subject for further discussions."

Mrs Bottomley promised gradually to reduce the maximum waiting time for sur-

Home rule convention challenged

By Kerry Gill

THE executive of the Scottish Constitutional Convention, formed three years ago to pursue home rule, will gather in Glasgow today to decide whether it still can claim to be the most suitable vehicle for devolution.

The Labour leadership and Scotland United, the campaign group formed last weekend, will try to persuade the 25-member executive that it should back a multi-option referendum on the constitution, suggested by the Scottish National Party in 1990.

While the SNP yesterday pledged to back the campaign for a referendum, Alex Salmond, SNP leader, said: "The election result last Thursday showed clearly that the convention strategy is a dead duck. There is no parliamentary majority for devolution, nor is there likely to be over the next five years." Jim Sillars, deputy leader, said: "The convention has huffed and puffed for three years and it couldn't manage to blow anything down. The election result in Scotland called their bluff."

Job seeker confronts the new minister

By Lin Jenkins

GILLIAN Shepherd smiled sweetly and kept her composure as a person from the ranks of the unemployed breached the cordon of advisers and journalists during her first visit to an employment exchange as employment secretary yesterday.

Mrs Shepherd's visit to the job centre in Westminster was to meet the staff and give television and radio interviews on the latest jobless figures from the pristine ven-

ue complete with corporate colour-coded carpet and furniture. But Peter Bullard had other ideas. "They need to show you the bare floors, the cigarette ends and four letter words, they're not all like this," he said.

Mr Bullard, 37, an unemployed part time teacher of English to foreign students, added: "It's all very smart here but it hides the truth."

A friendly arm guided Mrs Shepherd away from the public and back to the photographers. She posed between two

display boards, one advertising jobs in sales, the other management.

"That's that Conservative woman," said Bryn Mitchell, as he looked up from the board of catering jobs. Someone told him she was the new employment secretary. "Ah, Virginia Bottomley," he said knowingly.

Unperturbed by being thrust into the limelight as one of the first women in John Major's cabinet after only five years in the House, Mrs Shepherd deftly ran through

four television interviews in quick succession. With the number out of work rising for the 24th consecutive month the figures were a "relatively good story", Mrs Shepherd said, since job vacancies were the highest for two years.

Mr Bullard thought she ought to be talking to those the job centre calls clients. He calls them the unemployed.

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Major's Iron Lady
L&T section, page 4

Boy wakes find brother aged for strangling

THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 17 1992

Business in intensive care again

Business in intensive care again

Business in intensive care again

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Boy wakes to find brother, aged four, strangled

By ADAM FRESCO

A BOY aged four was sexually assaulted and strangled in his bed as his brother slept in the same room. Matthew Robinson's body was discovered by his brother Jason on Wednesday morning in the lodging house run by his parents.

The parents reported what they thought was a cot death but a post mortem examination showed he had been strangled and sexually assaulted. Matthew and Jason, 9, were in an unlocked bedroom on the third floor of the house in Keyham, Plymouth, Devon. Their parents Alan Robinson, 63, an inventor, and his wife Christine, 30, were sleeping on the floor above.

The Robinsons' large Victorian house, which they own, is split into single room beds which are occupied by regular tenants and other people who may stay occasional nights as casual guests.

There were thought to be five tenants staying at the house at the time of the murder, some sleeping on the same floor as Matthew and others in ground floor rooms. A number of them are helping police with their inquiries.

Matthew was put to bed about 9pm on Tuesday night by his father and Jason was put to bed by his mother half an hour later.

Matthew was unattended during that time and was "seemingly asleep" when his brother came to bed. About 8.30am on Wednesday, Jason awoke but could not rouse his brother in the lower bunk and called his parents. Jason, who has been interviewed by a police child protection team, saw and heard nothing during the night, he said.

The house is used as a Department of Social Services lodging property, although it is not known if there were any DSS lodgers there at the time.

Detective Superintendent Malcolm Corp, leading a team of 30 detectives, said: "We are looking for a very strong sexual deviant who is at present at large on the streets of Plymouth. What that boy was subjected to makes it a horrendous murder. The killer might well have been an outsider from off the streets. The other people living there are being interviewed as potential witnesses."

"This is one of the most horrendous crimes we have ever come across. We have not identified a suspect at this time. The child's parents are totally distressed by what has happened. They are caring, loving parents and they are naturally very upset."

"The house has numerous tenants and is not really secure. People come and go as they wish and people call there. There are various residents in the house and we are going through the process of making forensic tests and taking statements, which may take some time, and the inquiry is now mushrooming out from the house."

"We believe the assault and death occurred between 9pm on Tuesday and 8.30am on Wednesday when the family doctor was called because the older brother found he could not wake Matthew."

"The boy must have subjected to a great deal of pain and discomfort from the sexual assault before he died."

Vital scientific evidence is being gathered from the house. Police are working on several theories. One is that Matthew was murdered in his bed in the thirty minutes before his brother Jason was put to bed and another is that Matthew was killed during the night while Jason was asleep.



High security: police marksmen positioned on a neighbouring rooftop during yesterday's court hearing in east London.

Couple remanded on explosives plot charges

By ALISON ROBERTS

A MAN and woman were remanded in custody yesterday charged with conspiring to cause explosions in central London and possessing Semtex explosive and six automatic assault rifles.

Ethel Audrey Lamb, 60, and James Joseph Canning, 36, both of Islip Gardens, Northolt, west London, appeared before Arbour Square magistrates in Stepney, east London, amid police high security. During the four and a half minute hearing, Mrs

Lamb, wearing a blue tracksuit, was remanded in custody for a week. She will appear before magistrates again on April 23.

Mr Canning, unemployed, is also charged with causing an explosion in Bridge Lane, Soho, on April 6 and with possessing a loaded Smith and Wesson revolver with intent to resist arrest on April 13. Mr Canning, dressed in a blue V-neck sweater and blue trousers, was remanded in custody for four weeks to appear in court again on May 14.

The charges were brought under the Explosive Substances Act 1883 and the Firearms Act 1968. Three police officers stood in the dock with the couple, two flanking them and one in the middle. Throughout the hearing neither Lamb nor Canning spoke but stared ahead at the magistrate, Daphne Wickham. The remand application was made by Richard Glenister, for the prosecution. There was no application for bail and reporting restrictions were not lifted.

A large police operation was mounted to transport the couple from Paddington Green police station, west London, where they had been held in cells last night. Canning and Lamb arrived at 9.30am in separate armoured vehicles escorted by a police helicopter. The operation was watched from neighbouring rooftops by police marksmen. Everyone entering the court underwent a body search and all bags were checked. The couple were driven away two hours later in a police convey.

A third man held by police in London under the Prevention of Terrorism Act was still being questioned last night. Two hundred mourners were at the funeral yesterday of one of the victims of Friday's IRA blast in the City of London.

Family, friends and workmates of Paul Butt, 29, attended the service at Corbets Tey crematorium, Essex. Danielle Carter, 15, and Thomas Casey, 49, a doorman at the Baltic Exchange, also died in the blast that injured over 90 people.

Two more named in hunt for killers

By CRAIG SETON

TWO more of the three Irishmen being sought by police in connection with the murder of an army recruiting sergeant were identified by Derbyshire police yesterday. They are Declan Duffy, 19, nicknamed Wado, and Anthony Gorman, 22, known as Fanta. Both are from Belfast. They and Joseph Magee, 26, are wanted in connection with the killing of Sergeant Michael Newman, 34, who was shot in the head on Monday as he left the combined army and navy careers office in Derby where he worked. The Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) has claimed responsibility for the murder.

A Derby woman who was detained for questioning after the shooting was arrested yesterday under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Police have not named the woman, who was originally held under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act with three other people. They were released.

Don Davostan, an assistant chief constable of Derbyshire, said yesterday that the three men still being sought were dangerous and should not be approached. "The police should be contacted immediately and we will take the appropriate action."

He appealed for an anonymous woman caller who had telephoned police yesterday with "vital information" to contact them again. The woman, who spoke with an Irish accent, rang off before she could be questioned.

Declan Duffy is described as extensively tattooed. On his right forearm, he has a tattoo of a rifle and a red star. On his left hands are the letters INLA. He is about 5ft 7in, with short, light brown hair that is receding and thinning. He weighs about 10 stone, with an athletic build, and is tattooed. He occasionally wears gold-rimmed glasses.

Anthony Gorman is 6ft, of slim build, weighs 12 stone and has short, dark brown hair, blue eyes and a Mexican-type moustache. He has a tattoo of a heart on his left hand and the letter F on his left forearm.

An inquest into Sgt Newman's death was opened and adjourned yesterday.

Souness in intensive care again

By ALISON ROBERTS

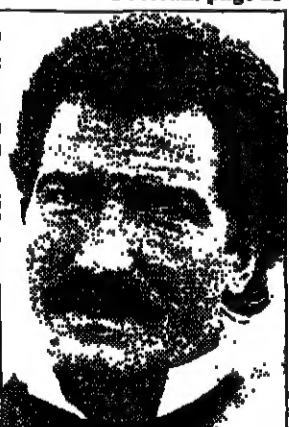
THE Liverpool football manager Graeme Souness suffered a setback in his recovery from heart surgery and was taken into intensive care yesterday.

The surgeon who performed the operation was called to his hospital bedside shortly after midday. The nature of the relapse is unknown but Mr Souness, 38, will now spend another week in hospital. He spent half an hour in the intensive care ward of Alexandra hospital in Cheadle, Greater Manchester, before being moved to a progressive care unit.

Mr Souness's friend Karen Levy hurried to the hospital to be with him. He was visited earlier in the day by Elton Welsby, the independent television sports presenter.

The setback came hours after the Liverpool Football Club board said that it would meet to discuss public protests at Mr Souness's dealings with The Sun. He was pictured in the newspaper kissing Miss Levy on the day the club held a third anniversary memorial service for the 95 fans who died in the Hillsborough disaster.

Football, page 28



Souness: another week in hospital

Allotments barred to poll tax rebels

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE potting shed, suburban man's last refuge from the reality of modern life, succumbed to the community charge yesterday when a city council threatened to ban poll tax defaulters from its allotments.

Portsmouth city council announced that the right to tend prize-winning leeks on council property would in future be granted only to those who paid their poll tax on time. The council, run by an alliance of Labour and the Liberal Democrats, is taking action against defaulters whose refusal to pay the poll tax has added £25 a head to the bills of every adult in the town.

Councillors are considering a plan to introduce membership cards for local people wanting to use allotments and other leisure services such as swimming pools and sports grounds.

Under the plan, cards would be issued only to people who had paid their community charge. Non-payers would be barred from using public facilities.

The council has also decided to publish the names of

8,800 people who failed to register to pay the poll tax even though their names appeared on electoral registers in the year before the charge was introduced. The council is still owed almost £5 million in unpaid poll tax from the 1990-1 financial year and a further £3.4 million for 12 months to April 1 this year.

Alan Burnett, the council leader, said: "If people do not pay their poll tax they shouldn't be using council facilities. We hope also to publish the names of those who have not paid a penny yet to give them ample warning that bailiffs may be on the way. We are also considering having non-payers' cars clamped."

Jack Thornton, finance director of Labour-controlled Thamesdown district council in Swindon, Wiltshire, has called on councillors to experience at first hand the feelings of people paying the tax.

He told the council's policy committee that his staff were suffering verbal abuse, particularly over the £29.50 added to every bill to make up for losses caused by non-payment.

Customer shot in bank raid

A BANK customer was hit by a ricocheting bullet yesterday when a raider fired at staff behind a protective screen who refused to hand over money. The bullet bounced off the screen and hit the customer in the hand.

The customer was treated in hospital for a graze wound. The raider, who was wearing a balaclava helmet, fled empty-handed from the National Westminster bank at Ruistip, northwest London.

A telephonist who was on duty upstairs at the bank said: "The robber was about 30 to 35 and came barging into the bank pushing customers out of the way. He demanded money, but no money was given."

He said the raider then pulled out a revolver and opened fire on a cashier. The

bullet bounced back. "Within minutes there were loads of police cars outside," he added.

Scotland Yard said: "At 2.10pm there was an attempted robbery at the National Westminster bank and a man was shot. There was an injury to his hand, which is not believed to be serious." The customer was treated at Mount Vernon hospital.

bullet bounced back. "Within minutes there were loads of police cars outside," he added.

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Airport arrivals cash in to find instant sunshine

BY THE time Caron McCouaig had finished her shift at Gatwick airport yesterday afternoon there was a pile of requests for instant holidays in the sun still awaiting her attention.

Caron and the seven other staff of Thomas Cook's new travel shop in the south terminal had been rushed off their feet all day answering a stream of telephone calls and personal visitors all wanting to get away — often with no fixed idea where but all hoping to cash in on the massive discounts offered on flights and seats as airlines and tour operators tried to off-load their last remaining unsold capacity.

Twelve remaining seats on an Airtours flight to Lanzarote, for example, could be had for £79 each three hours before departure compared with the brochure price of £260. Anyone interested had to stay for 14 nights, perhaps explaining why, even at that knockdown price, there were no takers.

By midday most of the other offers on the "late availability" screens in the shop since the tour operators opened for business at 7am, and sent messages to travel agency computers gradually reducing the price, had been snapped up. "We have been astonished at the demand for

Demand for last minute breaks to almost anywhere — just as long as it is sunny — is taking off, reports Harvey Elliott

instant travel since we opened two weeks ago," said Glyn Dixon, the shop manager. "Some people simply arrive with suitcases and ask if they can go immediately to whatever destination we have on offer. As long as they arrive two hours before departure to enable the airline to complete its paperwork it can usually be done."

Once the Easter rush is over and Gatwick returns to normal, many more such deals are expected to be made available at the last moment, enabling anyone with the nerve and necessary flexibility to cut the cost of a holiday by at least half.

Some believe that Gatwick and other airports, where travel agents have for the first time been allowed to set up shop, may soon become more like railway stations with passengers buying tickets just before departure as a matter of course. "If the trade and market forces demand that, we can make the

facilities available," said Alan Munds, Gatwick managing director, who yesterday disclosed plans to enlarge the departure lounges and check-in areas to cope with any surge in demand.

Generally the travel industry does not like to talk about late availability offers, preferring instead to convince passengers to book early. After all if they can sell a holiday at full brochure price three months before departure, and bank any money paid in advance, why should they draw attention to the kind of offers which were being displayed in Thomas Cook's airport shop window yesterday?

They would, of course, argue that most of the people who tried to fly away yesterday were disappointed, but it was Maundy Thursday, traditionally one of the busiest days of the year.

The roads are likely to be especially busy this weekend and police and the motoring organisations are bracing themselves for possible traffic jams in some of the most popular spots.

The fight for market share of trans-Atlantic services was hotly contested yesterday when British Airways announced new Apex year round fares which cut some prices by 45 per cent.

Unwary at risk in Highlands

By KERRY GILL

HORDES of climbers, walkers and skiers will be attracted to the Highlands this weekend at a time when the unwary regularly fall victim to the region's notoriously fickle spring climate.

Easter, according to official records, can be one of the worst periods for accidents. Mountaineers who have travelled a long distance are not prepared to abort a climb even if the weather is atrocious, there are more inexperienced and ill-clad hill-walkers on the slopes, and conditions, alternately freezing and thawing, can be at their most perilous.

Hamish MacInnes, leader of Glencoe's 24-hour mountain rescue team, said that there had been recent snowfalls and that freezing conditions had developed higher up. Slippages could result in bad accidents because the relatively light snow covering meant that boulders were exposed.

A slight thaw could lead to avalanches higher up, or cornices breaking, as happened last week in the Cairngorms when two men fell 500ft and survived when they landed on deep, soft snow.

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Shooting of farmer accident

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Peter Joseph, chairman of the board of the National Association of Manufacturers, said the industry will be "in a bind" which requires "careful planning and control" of 1970 production.

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Although police in
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fact which led to
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Parents fly to US after murder of 'brilliant' daughter

By DAVID YOUNG

THE parents of a 27-year-old British woman killed in the French Quarter of New Orleans flew to the American city yesterday as its police intensified the hunt for the mugger who shot her.

Police have warned tourists in New Orleans that they can "advise them but not protect them". They said a mugger "high on drugs" killed Julie Stott. She had been with her friend Peter Ellis when a thief drove up and demanded money. He forced the couple to lie on the ground before opening fire, hitting Miss Stott but missing Mr Ellis by inches.

Miss Stott was described yesterday as a textile designer with a brilliant future. She had met up in Los Angeles with Mr Ellis, 27, who had been working in New Zealand for 18 months, before travelling to New Orleans for the jazz festival.

They were leaving a restaurant in a normally quiet quarter of the town on Wednesday when the gunman

drove up and demanded money and valuables. Neither resisted but the man opened fire before driving off empty-handed. Mr Ellis was unhurt.

At Sundour Fabrics, the textile firm in Bolton, Greater Manchester, where Miss Stott was development and design manager, the chief executive Peter Robinson said: "We can't believe it. She was a super girl. I took her on six years ago and she finished up managing our design workshop. She was brilliant at the job and had a great future."

"They had not been there very long and had just come out of a restaurant. Julie wouldn't have resisted at all. She was used to travelling and used to go abroad for us with exhibitions."

Miss Stott recently bought a flat in Eccles, Greater Manchester. She joined the Bolton firm after leaving the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology with a degree in

textiles and design. Her parents, Ray and Margaret Stott, from Middleton, Greater Manchester, flew to New Orleans yesterday.

Jim Stewart, a murder squad detective in the city, said: "We can only warn people about the dangers on the street, but we cannot protect them. Tourists get robbed in London too, but our guys have guns."

"This girl and her friend had come here because they loved jazz. They just wanted to see where the greats had played."

Mr Stewart said that the couple had co-operated fully with their attacker, who appeared to witnesses to be high on drugs. He had demanded their cash and valuables when suddenly his attitude changed and he started to fire a handgun before jumping back into a car and driving away.

A witness, Cathan McCandlish, said: "Nowhere is safe for a young woman to walk around."



Victim: Julie Stott, murdered in New Orleans

Dangers behind carnival mask

NEW Orleans, like the Mardi Gras masks that are sold in its souvenir shops, conceals a darkness behind a colourful appeal.

This is the warm Southern city that breaks into riotous festivities every March. It is the city whose heart is the shuttered old French Quarter, the home of the Preservation Hall jazz band, of the celebrated if slightly sleazy Bourbon Street, of Cajun and Creole cuisine. It is the starting point for steamboat trips up the Mississippi and visits to the plantation homes of the Old South.

New Orleans attracts 11 million visitors a year and is the third most popular destination in America for foreign travellers. But it is more than that. It is one of the most dangerous cities in the country, where 346 murders were recorded in 1991, an increase of 13 per cent on the previous year.

In 1990, according to the FBI, New Orleans had the second highest per capita murder rate of any major American city, beaten only by Washington DC. The rate was 61 victims per 100,000 residents. For the whole of Britain in 1988 the rate was two per 100,000. In 1990 New Orleans moved from having the sev-

The home of jazz and Mardi Gras recorded 346 murders last year. Martin Fletcher reports on New Orleans

enteenth worst overall crime rate in America to the tenth.

It suffers the same afflictions as most other American cities, only worse. It has a rampant drug underworld that breeds crime, particularly in its huge public housing projects. Guns are readily available. Louisiana is one of the poorest states.

Exacerbating this blight has been a record of political shenanigans and extremism dating back at least half a century to the days of Governor Huey Long. Metairie, a white suburb of New Orleans, is the base of the race-baiting David Duke, the former state legislator and Ku Klux Klan member running for president. The governor is the roguish Edwin Edwards, who has twice been tried and acquitted on corruption charges and once boasted that only "a dead girl or live boy in my bed" could keep him from winning office.

Admirer leaves Paisley £50,000

By ROBIN YOUNG

IAN Paisley has been left £50,000 in the will of an Englishwoman he never met. Ellen Newton, of Hindhead, Surrey, who died in January aged 86, had seen the Democratic Unionist Party leader only on television and read about him in newspapers.

She has left him the money "for the assistance of members of the Protestant community of Northern Ireland suffering financial distress as a result of terrorist activities within the province, as he shall determine".

Mr Paisley's son, Ian, said his father was delighted at the extremely helpful gesture. A trust fund had been set up to invest the money. He said: "If this money had been available after the Teebane massacre it could have been extremely useful to families who lost their only breadwinner." Eight Protestant workers were killed when the IRA blew up their minibus at the co. Tyrone village in January. Mrs Newton, who had no children, divided all but £7,000 of her £2,701,348 net estate between charities and churches.

Other wills, page 14

Shooting of farmer accidental

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A WEALTHY farmer who was shot dead in a copse was accidentally killed by a device he made for shooting foxes, police said.

Peter Jowett, 43, was probably the victim of a gust of wind which completed an electrical circuit and triggered a 357 magnum bullet from the gun-mounted gadget he built to protect lambs on his land at Winterslow, Wiltshire.

A coroner's inquest will be held at Salisbury on May 29. Det Chief Insp David Sinclair, who is leading the investigation, said: "We are confident this was a tragic accident with the gun activating while Mr Jowett was close by. We can speculate it was for the purpose of shooting animals but we don't actually know the reason. We must always keep an open mind but at this stage we are not treating it as a murder enquiry."

Although police have not ruled out the possibility that someone else pulled the trigger, they are convinced there is no connection between Mr Jowett's death and an incident last November when he was stabbed by an intruder at his home. Police are appealing to engineering companies from which Mr Jowett may have sought help in making the device.

For sale: a fairway to heaven

By JOHN YOUNG

ANY golfer who dreams of playing undisturbed and unhindered by others on the course might like to consider buying Wootton Hall, in north Lincolnshire, which is being offered for sale by its owner, John Halmshaw.

Although golf courses in the grounds of country houses are increasingly common, they have nearly all been developed as commercial ventures to support the upkeep of the estate. A course built for its owner's exclusive delectation or frustration is a rarity.

Mr Halmshaw bought the eighteenth century house from the Earl of Yarborough 25 years ago. He designed and built the nine-hole par-three course in the grounds in 1980, complete with its own "club house" and bar.

"Some people have swimming pools, some have tennis courts. I'd rather play golf than swim or play tennis," he said. "It is quite a difficult course, and quite a number of my friends have got extremely exasperated with it."

The house, built in 1796, contains two Adam-style fireplaces salvaged from the London home of Lord Yarborough's mother, which was destroyed in the second world war. It is for sale through Dickinson, Day & Markham, of Brigg, Humberside.

Asian immigrant appointed QC

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

AN IMMIGRANT who came to Britain unable to speak English was one of 69 Queen's Counsel announced yesterday. Mukhtar Hussain is also the first barrister from an ethnic minority community practising outside London to be made a QC. Three years ago, he was the first Pakistani to be appointed a recorder of the Crown Court.

Mr Hussain, 42, arrived in England with his parents when he was 13. His father began work as a labourer in a textile mill in Preston, Lancashire, before starting a grocery shop.

Mr Hussain had to go to a special school to learn English before he could begin his full-time studies. He took O and A levels at a technical college and decided not to take up a place at the London School of Economics because he did not want to be a financial burden on his parents.

Instead he went to the College of Law in London to take his legal exams and was called to the Bar at 21. He is based on the northern circuit and specialises in criminal and immigration work.

As he prepared to celebrate taking silk, Mr Hussain, from Rochdale, Greater Manchester, said it proved that, if people worked hard enough, they could overcome other disadvantages. "It does not matter about your background or colour," he said. "People can make the breakthrough, though it may take a little longer than normal. The

old concept that you had to be from a particular privileged class to make the breakthrough has gone."

Among the new QCs is Estella Hindley, the first woman practising in Birmingham to take silk, and David Pannick, who at 36 is one of the youngest. Mr Pannick, a fellow of All Souls College Oxford, is a regular columnist with *The Times*.

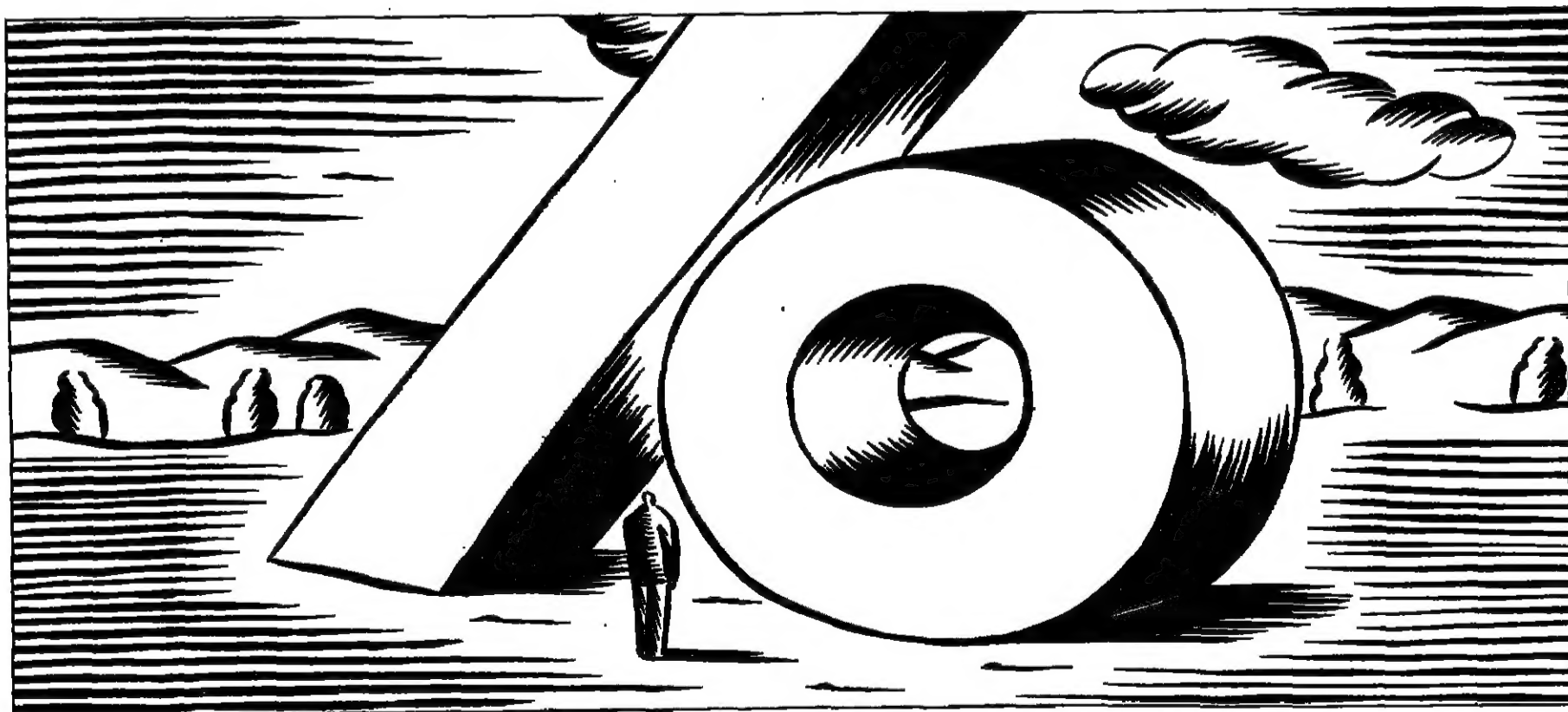
This year there were 420 applications to take silk, including 34 from women and 14 from ethnic minorities. The 69 appointments include seven women (21 per cent of female applicants) and one Asian (7 per cent of ethnic minority applicants). Last year seven women were appointed from 24 applicants.

Law Report
L&T section, page 9



Hussain: puts success down to hard work

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£10,000+	9.30	9.52	6.98	7.10
£500+	8.50	8.68	6.38	6.48

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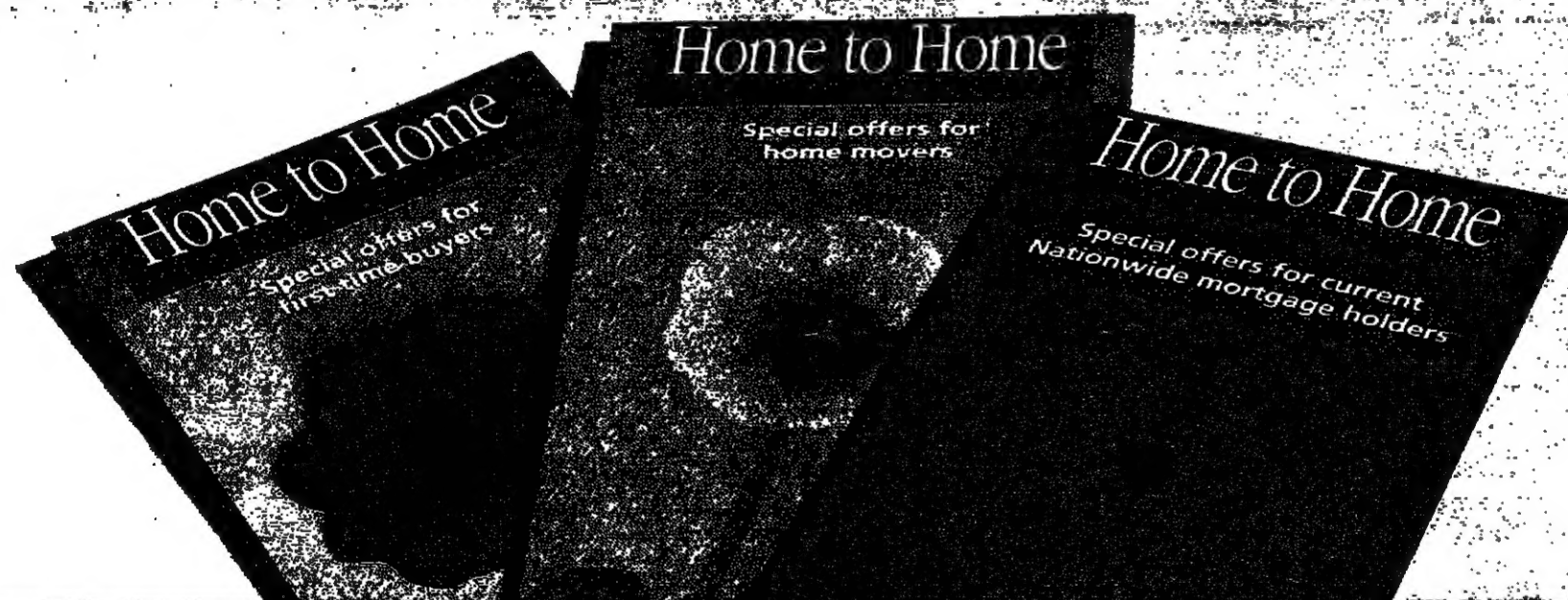
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On a loan of £60,000 with a purchase price of £80,000 first time buyers would qualify for a 2.44% discount in the first year off the Society's standard variable rate giving a rate of 8.55%. A rate of 10.55% is assumed in years 2-25. Monthly payments would therefore be £394.87 in year 1 and £461.57 in years 2-25 giving an APR of 11.2% (variable) and Total Amount Payable of £220,750. Home movers taking a loan of £120,000 with a purchase price of £160,000 would qualify for a 1.94% discount in the first year off the Society's standard variable rate giving a rate of 9.9%. A rate of 10.4% is assumed in years 2-25. Monthly payments would therefore be £528.13 in year 1 and £573.00 in years 2-25 giving an APR of 11.1% (variable) and Total Amount Payable of £413,490. Our standard rate is 10.9%. For loans of £60,000 and £120,000 the following would apply: £60,000 loan, monthly payments £261.87, APR 11.2% (variable), Total Amount Payable £221,590. £120,000 loan, monthly payments £528.13, APR 11.1% (variable), Total Amount Payable £413,490. All examples assume 300 monthly payments over 25 years. Please remember that in addition there is a premium to pay for your endowment policy, which varies according to your own personal circumstances. Typically, a couple (male and female, aged 25, both non-smokers, taking out a Nationwide Freedom for Homebuyers policy, over a 25 year period (300 payments), would pay a monthly endowment premium of £25 for a £60,000 mortgage and £107 for a £120,000 mortgage. Freedom for Homebuyers is underwritten by Guardian Assurance PLC, a member of Lloyds and as a unit-linked contract, cash values will fluctuate with unit prices. Full and overriding details are contained in the illustration, acceptance terms and policy document. A free copy is available upon request. All interest charges, repayment of capital, legal fees as shown (legal fees ensure that the same solicitor acts for both the Society and the borrower and are in accordance with the guidelines agreed between The Building Societies Association and The Law Society), mortgage application fees as shown and redemption fees of £25 are included in the APRs indicated. In addition in all documented examples building and contents insurance (Room Cover) premiums have been included in the APRs in year 1 and building premiums only in years 2-25 for discounted loans above £60,000. An example of a Room Cover monthly premium for a terraced house in York YO6, with 4 habitable rooms would be £17.99 for both buildings and contents insurance, for buildings only the premium would be £10.46 (300 monthly premiums). It is a condition of the Home to Home offers that buildings and contents insurance is taken with the Society in the first year (Contents only if a leasehold property). Building or contents insurance must be taken at year 2-25 if the tiered reduction is taken for loans above £60,000. All payments are quoted net of MURAS tax relief. The examples assume that the mortgage rates shown will not change. To qualify for Home to Home offers, payment must be made by direct debit from a current account or Nationwide FlexiAccount. The offer of free mortgage payment cover is subject to normal qualifying conditions. All mortgages are subject to approval of an applicant's financial standing and valuation of the property. Security over your property and in some cases over a suitable life policy will be required. For loans exceeding 75% an additional charge will be made. Mortgage loans are not available to persons under the age of 18. All loans agreed for wholly or partial business purposes do not qualify for the large loan rates or any other Home to Home offer. Nationwide Building Society and Nationwide Estate Agents are appointed representatives of Guardian Royal Exchange Marketing Group (members of which are Members of Lloyds and IMRO) only for the purposes of advising on and selling life insurance, pension, trust and personal savings plan products bearing Guardian Royal Exchange name. For the sale of general insurance, the Society is an independent intermediary which acts as your agent and accepts responsibility for the advice provided and the arranging of your insurance. Room Cover is underwritten by General Accident, Guardian Royal Exchange and Royal Insurance. Mortgage Payment Cover is underwritten by Guardian Royal Exchange. We comply with the Association of British Insurers Code of Practice, a copy of which is available on request. Written quotations are available on request from Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide House, 136 High Holborn, London WC1V 6PW. Nationwide Estate Agents is a licensed credit broker. Nationwide is a member of The Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme and conforms with The Code of Banking Practice. Freedom is a registered service mark of Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance PLC.

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New cervical cancer clue yields faster treatment

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A MORE efficient method of screening for cancer of the cervix could help thousands of women whose smear tests are on the borderline.

Scientists from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, University College London and the University Hospital, Nottingham, have shown that the smears can be monitored for the presence of a virus that gives a good indication of whether serious disease is likely.

Of the five million women in Britain who have cervical smear tests to detect early traces of cancer, about 250,000 a year show slight abnormalities. Many women with abnormal smears will never develop cervical cancer but the difficulty until now has been deciding what to do when small abnormalities are detected.

Malcolm Anderson of the Nottingham hospital, one of the authors of the study published in tomorrow's issue of *The Lancet*, says: "In some places, women are offered smear tests at shorter intervals and only referred for treatment if the disease persists or progresses. Elsewhere they are offered colposcopy, which involves a physical examination of the cervix with a microscope. The first could be risky and the second is very costly." The screening service "is inundated by a large number of mildly abnormal smears".

Jack Cusick of the research fund says that of 250,000 women with slight abnormalities, 75,000 women may have an important under-

lying disease, but without a hospital referral and biopsy there is no means of knowing which they are. Now they believe they may have found a clue which will help determine which smears justify further examination.

The clue is the presence in the cells of a human papilloma virus known as HPV16. The team, which included George Terry and Linda Ho of University College London and Tony Hollingsworth of Nottingham, examined smears from 85 women. Using the technique of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to amplify the amount of DNA from the HPV16 virus present, they were able to show that in almost 90 per cent of the cases, a high level of HPV16 indicated the presence of severe abnormalities.

Dr Cusick says: "There are other methods for detecting HPV, but they are either too laborious or not accurate enough. We think it is very likely that women with only minor abnormalities but high levels of HPV16 may well have high-grade disease and PCR is a technique which can find this out. These women are in need of further investigation by colposcopy and should not be followed up only by a repeat smear and surveillance."

At present, the polymerase chain reaction machines are not widely available but the team believes that they could be provided if the need were demonstrated.

Health,

L&T section, pages 5, 6

Butterfly raiders set breeders a-flutter

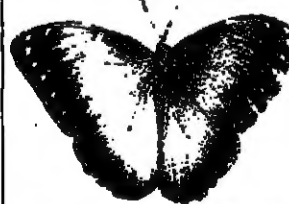
By DAVID YOUNG

POLICE in rural areas, accustomed to looking out for poachers, cattle rustlers and sheep stealers, have now been told to be on the alert for butterfly thieves.

The gangs are not only stealing valuable rare butterflies but by smashing into glass conservatories where butterflies breed they are threatening to cause changes in temperature and humidity which would kill off entire collections. Security is now being improved at Britain's butterfly farms.

The thieves are believed to be experts who are seeking only the more valuable insects which they mount and sell to collectors. In a raid earlier this week thieves escaped with specimens of the Blue Morpho butterfly from a centre at Stratford-upon-Avon.

Cameras are being used at the New Forest butterfly farm near Ashurst, Hampshire, to monitor the area for signs of thieves. At the farm, Annette Todhunter



The Blue Morpho, a prime target for theft

said: "We have over 40 types of butterfly here and we couldn't afford to lose any. We have never had any problems, but there are many places that have, so we must be alert."

"Although there is quite a trade in breeding butterflies, I doubt that it is breeders who are carrying out these thefts. After all, most species don't live any longer than three weeks, so there wouldn't be much point."

"To me it sounds like they are taken to be killed, framed and sold to collectors. You would need to be an expert to catch them in the first place."

The main target for butterfly raiders is the Blue Morpho, a bright iridescent Malaysian species with a 5 in wing span. It is imported into Britain in the pupae stage of development to maintain the stocks at butterfly farms.

The pupae, worth £10 each, are kept in locked zones until they hatch, suffering a 25 per cent mortality rate.

Coroner discharged after porn phone calls

The Avon coroner has been discharged, four months after it was disclosed that telephone calls were made from his office last year to soft porn and other "adult" telephone lines. Donald Hawkins had been on sick leave since last December, when details of the calls became public.

An auditor acting for Avon council found that 33 calls costing £137 had been made from Mr Hawkins' office between July and October. One call lasted 15 minutes.

Avon council said yesterday: "The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, discharged Donald Hawkins from office as coroner for Avon due to permanent ill health."

Moonies win

The Unification Church, whose members are known as Moonies, has won planning permission for a 120-acre riding centre and cross-country course at Stanton Fitzwarren, Wiltshire. Its application was supported by locals.

Kidnap remand

Michael Sams, 50, of Sutton on Trent, Nottinghamshire, was remanded in custody for a further seven days by Birmingham magistrates, charged with murdering Julie Dart, kidnapping Stephanie Slater and demanding money with menaces.

Lineker treated

George Lineker, the six-month-old son of England footballer Gary Lineker, has had a further week of chemotherapy at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. Jonathan Holmes, Mr Lineker's agent, said that doctors were happy with his progress.

Victim named

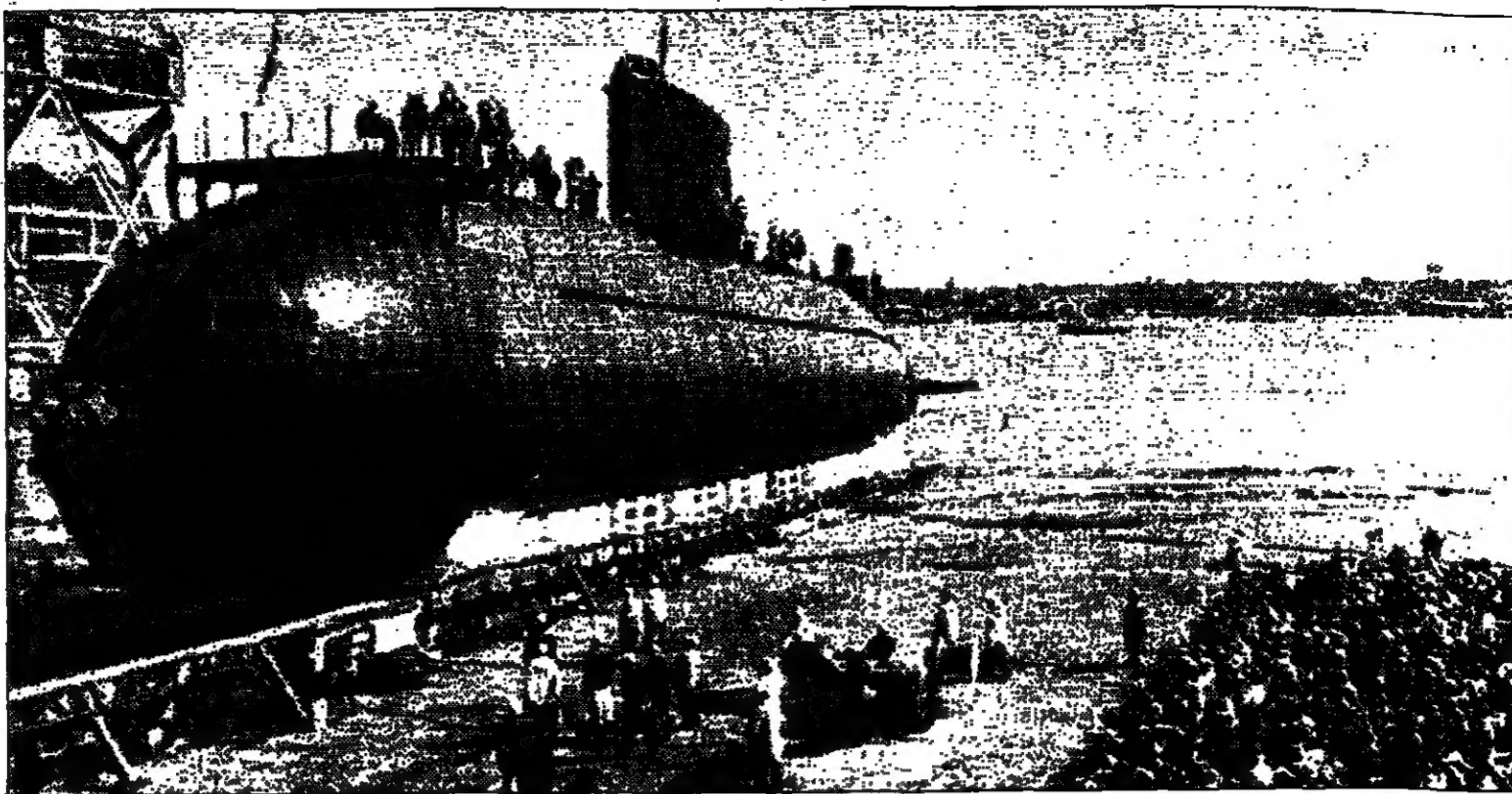
A boy who drowned when he was swept into the sea at Burton Bradstock, Dorset, on Wednesday has been named by police as Mark Cleverly, 12, of Hengrove, Bristol.

Nursing first

Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps has admitted men for the first time as it begins integration with the Royal Army Medical Corps and Royal Army Dental Corps.

Radio show

BBC Radio is to mark 70 years of broadcasting with a stage show and exhibition at Broadcasting House, central London.



Mixed feelings: HMS Unicorn slipping into the waters of the River Mersey yesterday, ending an era in shipbuilding at Birkenhead.

A crowd of 4,000 was on hand to cheer the launch of the 2,400 tonne submarine. But the champagne celebrations were overshadowed by the knowledge that it will be almost certainly the last vessel built at the Birkenhead shipyard. Cammell-Laird's order book is empty and the remaining 1,250 workers are to lose their jobs by June when

Cammell-Laird is scheduled for closure by Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering, its parent company.

Workers and management are pinning their hopes of a reprieve on an appeal to Michael Heseltine, the new trade and industry secretary. The yard is scheduled to wind down slowly, shedding jobs at a rate of 100 a month. At a press conference yesterday, Vickers chiefs cited the end of the Cold War as a major factor in its demise. Lord Chalfont, the chairman, announced

that the company had so far failed to find a buyer for the shipyard as a whole. He blamed the recession and the contraction of the defence industry. "I do not believe that the reconstruction of the defence industry should be left entirely to commercial interests — the government has to be involved in this," he said.

HMS Unicorn is the last of three Upholder-class subs built for the Royal Navy at the shipyard. The diesel-electric powered hunter-kill-

er submarine will carry 44 officers and crew and cost the defence ministry £100 million. She should be handed over to the Navy in June after fitting-out in dry dock.

The shipyard was founded 160 years ago by John Laird. At its peak it employed 40,000 men and today remains Birkenhead's biggest single employer. Historic vessels built there include HMS Conqueror, the submarine that sank the Belgrano, and HMS Ark Royal, Britain's first aircraft carrier.

Six jailed for £17m mortgage fraud

SIX men who ran a mortgage fraud which netted nearly £3 million in three months were jailed yesterday at Winchester crown court.

A jury was told that mortgages well above the prices of properties, including hotels, were obtained from a building society and two banks. The six were convicted of deception charges involving more than £17 million in loans from the Bank of Scotland, Lombard North Central and the Alliance and Leicester Building Society.

Kamlesh Panchal, 29, of Wembley, north London, described as the operation's planner, fellow accountant Rajinder Kumar, 55, also of Wembley, and Giles Saldanha, 46, a solicitor's clerk from Burnham, Buckinghamshire, were each jailed for two years.

James Lancaster, 42, of Bracknell, Berkshire, an experienced land valuer, was jailed for 15 months. Harjit Singh, 28, of Hounslow, west London, was given 12 months, and Janail Dhanoo, 38, of Southall, north London, six.



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Strangeways riot ringleader jailed for ten years

By RONALD FAUX

PAUL Taylor, ringleader of the Strangeways prison riots in Manchester two years ago, was given the maximum sentence of ten years for rioting by a judge at Manchester crown court yesterday.

Three other men were sentenced to between four and nine and a half years for their part in the riot, which led to the longest siege in the history of the prison service. A fifth man who was earlier cleared of rioting was jailed for 18 months for contempt.

Mr Justice Mantell said at the end of the 13-week trial that Taylor had appointed himself judge, jury and executioner. "You were not only one of the leaders of the riot, you participated in some of its worst violence," the judge told Taylor. That had included a savage attack on an inmate who was beaten and hurled from a third floor landing.

The judge said: "The riot was not a protest against real or imagined grievances but a brutal and cowardly attack on wretched creatures whose offences placed them at the bottom of the prison heap. You, Taylor, forgetful of your



Taylor: maximum term for 'cowardly' attacks

own past, which includes a conviction for rape, appointed yourself judge, jury and executioner."

Taylor was nearing the end of a 3½-year term for theft and assault when the riot broke out during a Sunday morning service in the prison chapel. At the crown court hearing he had complained of years of inhumane treatment in the prison system. He had a string of convictions for petty crime and one for rape in 1984.

The judge said that Parliament had provided a maximum sentence of ten years, no doubt with the intention of deterring those who took the law into their own hands and also in the expectation that the maximum sentence would be invoked in an appropriate case. "In my judgment this is an appropriate case. I cannot imagine a worse," he said.

John Spencer, 30, from Manchester, was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for riot. The judge told him that it was perfectly clear that he had played a full part and he added 18 months to the sentence for contempt of court because of Mr Spencer's part during a disturbance in the dock in the tenth week of the trial, during which the lives of jurors and their families were threatened.

Spencer will start his 9½-year term only after completing a sentence of seven years for robbery which was imposed two years ago. Andrew Nelson, 22, from Manchester, who was cleared of the rioting charge, was also jailed for 18 months for contempt. James Miller, 31, was sentenced to seven years for his

part in the riot. The court was told that he had 26 previous convictions and that he had had no paid work since leaving school.

He was serving a four-year sentence for robbery and kidnapping imposed last April. His sentence for rioting will begin when the present sentence ends.

The judge told Miller that although he had been involved in the Strangeways riot for a limited time, during that period he had taken a full part and perpetrated the most revolting assault on one of the inmates of E wing, where sex offenders and prisoners held under rule 43 for their own protection were contained.

Tiny Doran, 24, of Bristol was jailed for four years for rioting. The judge said that he had not been one of the leaders of the disturbance and had possibly been led astray. The court had taken into account that Mr Doran had some finer feelings in helping one of the inmates to safety.

After the hearing Lillian Taylor, Paul Taylor's mother, was led weeping from the court by members of her family. Outside, television reporters and photographers were attacked.



Double take: Patrick Moore, left, marked 35 years as presenter of *The Sky at Night* by unveiling his waxwork yesterday at Madame Tussaud's, London

Car boot customers entitled to refunds

By DAVID YOUNG

CAR boot sale enthusiasts now face a challenge as finding a real bargain. They could try to get their money back on faulty goods under the Sale of Goods Act.

Legal advisers to the Consumers' Association have said that, under certain circumstances, the act applies to goods bought at car boot sales, but that buyers should be prepared for a long slog if they want to claim their legal rights.

Keith Richards, a senior lawyer with the association, said: "Part of the fun of buying at car boot sales is being able to pick up anything that takes your fancy. The risk of buying a pig in a poke is part of that, but if you can find the vendor and you really want to go by the book, you might get your money back." He said that only if the seller made a false claim could a refund be sought.

"When you buy second-hand goods privately, the only legal requirement is that the seller owns the goods and that they correspond to any description given," he said. "You can try asking for a written description when you buy something, but remember it may prove difficult to track down a seller once you've found that the 'bargain' £10 stereo isn't in full working order."

Leading article, page 13

Parents of stabbed girl given payment

A HEALTH authority has agreed to pay an undisclosed sum to the parents of a girl aged 11 who was stabbed to death in a shopping centre.

Emma Brodie died a year ago after Carol Barratt, 24, a psychiatric patient at a hospital in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, stabbed her in the town's Frenchgate shopping centre. An enquiry into the case found that the psychiatrist who allowed Barratt her freedom committed a serious error of professional judgment.

The amount that Doncaster health authority is paying to Rod and Val Brodie, both 38, of The Plough public house, Doncaster, is not being revealed. John Holt, representing the family, said that the authority did not accept legal liability but was paying the money because of "the unique circumstances" of the case.

Barratt was discharged half-way through a detention order imposed after she tried to attack another schoolgirl in the same shopping centre a few weeks earlier. Dr Neil Silver, who authorised her release by telephone, was ordered to undergo six months' training before resuming his job.

Barratt is serving a life sentence at Rampton after admitting manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

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£12.99	£7.99	£19.99	£7.99	£159.99	£149.99	£15.99	£12.99	£14.99	£7.99
ICI 'Green Hopper' with ready to use spreader. Contains 2,4-D, dicamba and fenoxa-sulphate. 4.5kg treats 570sq. metres		Land-Leap Pergolas 6' x 4' Compress 4x Not packs (self-assembly)		Kent Vinyl VK 66 Garden Shed. 8' x 7'7" x 7'7" external approx. (self-assembly)		Fine Gallery Shelf with brackets and fittings 200 x 600mm 200 x 900mm		B&Q Vinyl Matt or Tiles. Same Size. Pure colours, 2.5 Litre	
£6.99	£5.99	£84.99	£80.00	£69.99	£189.99	£7.99	£5.99	£40.99	£9.49
B&Q Peel Free Multi-purpose Compost. 80 Litre bag		Land-Leap 3' x 3' Fence Post 6'		'Alberley Summerhouse' 6'6" wide external approx. (self-assembly)		£9.99	£7.99	£54.99	£7.99
£8.99	£5.99	£4.99	£4.99	£525.99	£499.99	£3.99	£3.99	£3.99	£7.99
B&Q Triple Action Lawnmower. Contains 2,4-D, dicamba and fenoxa-sulphate. 7kg treats 100sq. metres		7'		'Seagor' Black Paving. 200 x 100 x 25mm. Red		£3.99	£3.99	£4.99	£7.99
£6.99	£4.99	£5.99	£4.99	25	19	£4.99	£3.99	£4.99	£7.99
B&Q Bone Meal. 3kg pack		8'		Pitched Face Walling Block. 90 x 60 x 100mm. Natural or Buff		£19.99	£17.99	£4.99	£7.99
£3.99	£2.99	£5.99	£4.99	45	29	Fine 5 Tier Shelf System. 1700 x 750 x 307mm (self-assembly)		£19.99	£13.99
B&Q Fish, Blood & Bone. 3kg pack		Run Products Expanding Timber Fence Treats. Expands to 0.7m x 1.4m (max). Expands to 0.94m x 1.8m (max)		'Countrywide' Round-Topped Post Edging. 600 x 150 x 50mm. Buff or Off-White		Harrison Decor 968 Superstock Spot White 1.5m E1		£19.99	£17.99
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B&Q Bone Fertiliser. 3kg pack		5' Softwood Planter Bench (self-assembly)		Ready-Mix Drypack. Fine Concrete. 25kg gross weight		Harrison Decor 969 Superstock Superwhite 1.5m E1		£10.99	£8.99
£3.99	£2.99	£49.99	£44.99	£3.99	£3.49	£15.99	£4.99	£10.99	£8.99
B&Q Liquid Tomato Feed. 1 Litre Bottle		Bugatta Round Patio Set. Comprises 4 chairs with towelling covers, table and parasol		Black & Decker B2641 1/2" Hammer Drill		Swish L860V Deck Track White. 200cm (6'6")		£10.99	£8.99
£3.99	£1.99	£99.99	£89.99	£34.99	£29.99	£34.99	£26.99	£10.99	£8.99
J.A. Bower's New Horizon Peel-Free Multi-purpose Compost. 80 Litre bag		Lounger. With Corden or Camberbury design cover		Black & Decker B2651V 1/2" Hammer Drill		Swish D400V Deluxe Curved Back White. 200cm (6'6")		£9.99	£8.99
£8.99	£5.99	£44.99	£39.99	£49.99	£44.99	£14.99	£12.99	£10.99	£8.99
Black Forge Watched Shear 601201		Relaxer. With Corden or Camberbury design cover		Black & Decker B2642 1/2" Hammer Drill		Swish S300V Supersolo Cordless Back White. 200cm (6'6")		£14.99	£12.99
£15.99	£13.99	£44.99	£39.99	£56.99	£54.99	£62.99	£49.99	£10.99	£8.99
Black Forge Edging Shear 601207		Hammer. With Corden or Camberbury design cover		Black & Decker B2642 1/2" Hammer Drill		Caroline Exterior Door 78" x 30" x 1 1/2" 78" x 33" x 1 1/2" 78" x 33" x 1 1/2" 78" x 32" x 1 1/2"		£14.99	£12.99
£17.99	£15.99	£59.99	£39.99	£68.99	£66.99	£62.99	£49.99	£10.99	£8.99
Spear & Jackson Small Bypass Secateurs		Carisbrook Kettle Drill 22" diameter drill		Beach PBM 2.5V 1/2" Cordless Drill		Supple Veneered Maple Interior Door 78" x 30" x 1 1/2"		£14.99	£12.99
£10.99	£9.99	£49.99	£44.99	£69.99	£66.99	£17.99	£15.99	£10.99	£8.99
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£16.99	£14.99	£39.99	£34.99	£69.99	£66.99	£28.99	£24.99	£10.99	£8.99
Hozelock 4078 Polypropylene 3 pin adjustable pressure sprayer		Warwick Grill 13 1/2" diameter grill		Black & Decker B2641 1/2" Hammer Drill		Hardwood S.A. (Paint Grade) Door. Excluding glass 78" x 30" x 1 1/2"		£27.99	£21.99
£43.99	£39.99	£9.99	£6.99	£19.99	£18.49	£44.99	£42.99	£10.99	£8.99
Hozelock 4036 Counter 4 pin pressure sprayer		Holla New Popular 408 Aluminium Greenhouse. 10'5" x 8'5" x 7'0" approx. Internal ridge height (self-assembly)		Black & Decker B2653E Variable Speed Electronic Sigsaw		B&Q Polar White Double Glazed Front Door 78" x 30" 78" x 33"		£44.99	£39.99
£15.99	£13.99	£399.99	£374.99	£59.99	£56.99	£139.99	£129.99	£10.99	£8.99
Hozelock 4045 Counter 8 pin pressure sprayer		Holla New Popular 128 Aluminium Greenhouse. 12'7" x 8'5" x 7'0" approx. Internal ridge height (self-assembly)		B&Q Steel Shelf. Glass Hammer 16 oz.		B&Q Polar White Double Glazed Rear Door 78" x 30"		£139.99	£129.99
£21.99	£18.99	£449.99	£449.99	£6.99	£3.99	£6.99	£5.99	£10.99	£8.99
Hozelock 4058 Counter 12 pin pressure sprayer		Holla Silverline 84 Aluminium 'Lacquer' Greenhouse. 6'5" x 6'4" x 7'5" approx. external ridge height (self-assembly)		B&Q 3 Piece Wood Chisel Set HCS3. 13, 19, 25mm		Paper Overlay Plywood Backed Wallboard. Knotty Pine Effect. 8' x 4'		£6.99	£5.99
£24.99	£21.99	£374.99	£359.99	£8.99	£6.99	£12.99	£9.99	£10.99	£8.99
Hozelock 2387 Thru Flow Hose Reel								£10.99	£8.99
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Siege put prison reform on the political agenda

The disturbances at Strangeways led to a series of improvements in prison conditions and management, but the problem of overcrowding remains a big obstacle to reform, Richard Ford reports

The riot that engulfed Strangeways led not only to Britain's longest jail siege but also to proposals to improve conditions and management in prisons. For the first time this century, it forced the unfashionable area of penal reform on to the political agenda in a way that years of lobbying by pressure groups had failed to do.

The riot led to Lord Justice Woolf's report which made 12 recommendations for improvements. It criticised jail conditions and management and the failure of successive governments to fund the prison service adequately.

Within prisons, the riot was followed by a programme of improvements, including a £36 million scheme to end slopping out by 1994, a year earlier than recommended by Lord Justice Woolf, and the speeding up of a prison building programme. Routine censorship of mail was abolished except for Category A prisoners. Cardphones were provided for inmates and more telephones were installed in an effort to help them to keep contact with family and friends.

The entitlement to visits was doubled from one a month to one a fortnight, the involvement of Boards of Visitors in disciplinary matters was ended and there are plans for an independent adjudicator to deal with prisoners' complaints. Some prisons have begun to introduce sentence planning in an attempt to give individual inmates an outline of how they will spend their time in jail and how they can develop their interests and education.

A national code of standards is being drawn up and is intended to create community jails, near big towns and cities, to help prisoners to maintain links with their families. The riot and the Woolf report gave impetus to community involvement in prisoners' resettlement, training, housing and employment. Whether that impetus can be maintained remains to be seen.

The effects within the Home Office and upon the management of the prison service were equally far-reaching. The riot, which led

to disturbances in several other jails, caused a loss of ministerial confidence in prison management and fuelled moves to apply private sector skills to the running of jails.

Andrew Sampson, of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "The effect of Strangeways was to inject a sense of urgency into ministers about the need for change. It forced the whole area of prisons into the public arena."

After criticism of the lack of leadership by the prison department, Joe Pilling was made director-general of the prison service with the aim of improving public understanding of its work. The service is to become a semi-independent government agency as part of an effort to raise morale and to end the Home Office's day-to-day interference in the management of jails.

A criminal justice consultation council has been set up with the aim of improving co-operation between the judiciary, the legal profession, the prison and probation services and others involved in maintaining law and order. Nobody is sure whether it will become more than a talking shop.

In Parliament, the riot brought legislation creating an offence of prison mutiny, and the penalty for aiding a jail escape was increased from five to ten years' imprisonment.

Difficulties over meal times in some jails remain unresolved. Some prisoners have their last meal of the day as early as 4pm. This grievance is proving hard to resolve because it means tackling the shift system worked by prison officers.

The Home Office has not accepted the Woolf recommendation that a rule be introduced about jails holding more inmates than their official limits. The rule would have allowed 3 per cent overcrowding in a jail for up to seven days in any three months.

If this latitude was insufficient, the home secretary would have had to issue a certificate explaining why. Overcrowding remains a large obstacle to improving conditions.

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Fall of a merchant prince shakes Italian business

ONE of the greatest merchant princes of Italian finance, Carlo De Benedetti, was convicted of fraud yesterday and sentenced to six years and four months' imprisonment for his role in the 1982 crash of Banco Ambrosiano, the Milan bank headed by the late Roberto Calvi. The business empire co-ordinated by De Benedetti includes a controlling share through his Compagnie Industriale Riunite holding company in the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*.

The trial of financiers linked to the fall of Banco Ambrosiano was a postscript to a scandal that engulfed Italy's establishment, John Phillips writes

Due (P2) masonic lodge to which Calvi also belonged. Gelli, who refused to attend the trial because the authorities would not let him visit his wife who is ill in France, received a prison term of 18 years and six months.

The image of the Italian establishment has never recovered from the P2 affair, and some commentators believe the defeat of the Christian Democrats in the recent Italian general election was partly a delayed reaction against the political corruption the scandal has exposed since it emerged in 1981.

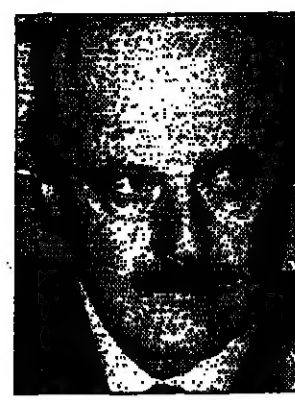
\$250 million to Ambrosiano creditors as a goodwill gesture while insisting it was not to blame morally or legally for the spectacular failure.

The public prosecutor sought to bring to trial the former president of the institute, Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, an American, and two other former officials of the bank. But in 1988 the Italian Court of Cassation cancelled the indictments because of the sovereign status of the Vatican.

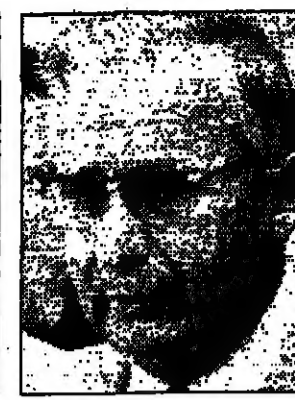
The Milan trial follows an eight-year investigation. The highest sentence went to Umberto Ortolani, a financier and a senior member of P2, who received 19 years in jail. The verdict in the Milan tribunal against De Benedetti, aged 57, and 32 others who were also found guilty has shocked the Italian business establishment. Shares in the Piedmontese financier's computer giant, Ing. C. Olivetti & C. Spa, and his holding company Compagnie Industriali Riunite



De Benedetti: found guilty of fraud



Calvi: London death remains a mystery



Gelli: Grand Master of the P2 lodge



Marcinkus: indictment had been cancelled

tumbled on the Milan stock exchange when the judges issued the sentence after a week of deliberation in the trial that opened in May 1990.

Lawyers acting for De Benedetti, nicknamed "L'ingegnere" (the Engineer) here because of his all-pervasive influence on the peninsula, said they would appeal against what they called a sentence as unexpected as it

is disconcerting for anybody who knows the facts and still believes in the law. "During the hearing not one sole proof of co-responsibility of Carlo De Benedetti in the collapse of the bank emerged," said the lawyers.

De Benedetti was deputy chairman of the Ambrosiano from November 1981 to January 1982 when he sold out his stake in what was formerly the largest private bank in Italy. He was not present at the court for the sentencing, under which he and the others convicted would be banned from managing public companies for ten years if the higher courts uphold the convictions.

Britain condemns Serb aggression

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT AND TIM JUDAH IN SARAJEVO

IN ONE of its strongest statements yet on Yugoslavia, Britain yesterday condemned the violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a deliberate attempt by Serbian extremists to undermine the republic's territorial integrity and destroy the constitution brokered by the European Community.

The Foreign Office said Serbian paramilitary units bore the main responsibility for bloodshed and for driving many innocent civilians from their homes. It also deplored the activities of the federal army, which it said had openly sided with terrorists instead of separating the warring factions.

"Serbia cannot expect a settled place in international institutions if it instigates civil war in Bosnia or the partition of that republic," the statement said.

Britain called for an immediate halt to the fighting, an end to outside interference and the return of the federal army to its barracks. The paramilitary groups should be disbanded, and all parties should renew their co-operation with the United Nations and Cyrus Vance, its special representative.



Further condemnation came from Germany and the United States, which want to punish Serbia by suspending Yugoslavia's seat at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. A German foreign ministry statement said James Baker, the American Secretary of State, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, had reached agreement over the move. Herr Genscher had sent a five-point message to the EC demanding the suspension of the Yugoslav seat, held by the

Serb-dominated rump state, if Serbia and the federal army do not change policy. Shrugging off criticism, the Serb-led federal army crushed Muslim resistance in a key town in Bosnia-Herzegovina yesterday. Troops entered the predominantly Muslim city of Visegrad. Tanjug news agency reported. Overnight fighting was reported in Sarajevo, Foca, about 30 miles southeast of the Bosnian capital, and Mostar, inland from Croatia's Adriatic coast.

Mr Vance ruled out the dispatch of UN peacekeeping troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The former American Secretary of State, who yesterday began a series of meetings with Bosnia's ethnic leaders and the Yugoslav commander of the Yugoslav army, insisted that a solution could be found only through EC-sponsored talks.

The British statement drew attention to a radio interview given by Douglas Hurd on Wednesday, in which the foreign secretary spoke about past trade sanctions against Serbia. He said: "The Serbs know that they can't exist in isolation, that they are at the heart of Europe and there is no way in which they can survive or continue isolated, cut off from their neighbours." He said the West needed to use those facts "to bring them to reasonable behaviour in the republics of Yugoslavia".

The Foreign Office said that Croatian extremist groups shared the blame to a lesser extent, but the weight of its unusually forceful condemnation fell squarely on Serbia.

Fighting in Bosnia over the past month has led to 170,000 people fleeing their homes, according to the Sarajevo office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "This is the largest, fastest-moving refugee situation since the Kurds fled," said Fabrizio Hochschild, a spokesman. "We are preparing for a quarter of a million refugees."

Paris: The Western European Union parliamentary assembly has urged the nine-nation defence group to send a peacekeeping force to Bosnia. The Maastricht treaty defined the WEU as the future defence arm of the EC. (Reuters)



Reaching out: a child holds out his hand as hooded men, leading the traditional Holy Week procession, pass by in Seville, where Expo '92 opens on Monday. The event, however, may be disrupted by a nationwide strike of hotel workers.

Unions launched a two-day strike yesterday and said further disruption during Expo and the summer Olympic games in Barcelona could not be ruled out if employers refused to renegotiate the 48-year-old national labour agreement.

Raisa laments hard times

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

RAISA Gorbachev, the former Soviet first lady who is in Japan with her husband at the end of a ten-day tour, appears to have enjoyed the sightseeing and shopping in Tokyo's department stores so much that she is loath to go home and resume a lifestyle she says is plagued with all the economic difficulties that affect the country.

Prompting visions of her queuing among Moscow's busy housewives for scraps of frozen cabbage, Mrs Gorbachev told the *Yomiuri Shimbun* that her family's housing, food and medical services have been affected drastically since Mikhail Gorbachev's resignation in

December. "Our home is not immune to the economic problems plaguing our country," she said. Her daughter and son-in-law were looking for extra jobs "because their salaries as doctors are not enough to make ends meet".

However, thanks to their invitation to Japan by a committee headed by Yasuhiro Nakasone, the former prime minister, Mr and Mrs Gorbachev may now be in a position to ease their financial difficulties. For his participation in several conferences and his willingness to smile to television cameras on a visit to Tokyo Disneyland, Mr Gorbachev is being paid an undisclosed fee. *Pravda* esti-

mated last week that Mr Gorbachev could earn \$500,000 (£284,000) during the trip, but a spokesman for the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, one of the sponsors, denied this, saying only that a "moderate" sum would be paid.

But what is moderate by Japanese standards is likely to be colossal in the eyes of Mr Gorbachev's companions. Lucrative lecture tours have become the prerogative of former world leaders. Ronald Reagan, the former American president, still hangs on to his position at the top of the Japanese pecking order of retired leaders, and is said to have received up to \$2 million for his tour.

'Kill the rich' rebels mourn death of terror

The end of communism and suspension of violence by urban terrorists has left Berlin's anarchists deprived of inspiration, Anne McElvoy writes

The huddle of leather jackets and Palestinian-style scarves around the metal tables of one of Kreuzberg's more disreputable cafes had the distinct look of a wake. Gloom was etched on the unshaven faces of Berlin's disenfranchised, many of whom sympathise openly with terrorism, after the announcement that the Red Army Faction was to suspend its 20-year campaign of violence.

Jens, sporting the popular "Kill the Rich" sticker, said: "They were our frontline warriors in the struggle against capitalism. They were the only force strong enough to shake up this rotten, self-satisfied society."

Others were debating whether there was a point in trying to fight "state violence" any longer now that even the professionals seem to be throwing in the bloody towel. Kreuzberg is preparing itself for the ritual May Day street battles between masked protesters called *Autonomen*, whose idea of a good day out entails throwing a petrol bomb followed by a bit of rough-and-tumble with the robust Berlin police.

The *Autonomen* are unlikely to renounce the thrill of living on the edge of the underworld, but since the collapse of communism, they looked like a bunch of rebels in search of an elusive cause.

Anti-capitalist slogans have been replaced by a plethora of causes. "Against speculators - male or female," reads one daubed message from a politically-correct painbrush. Indifferent to their own country's politics, many have switched their focus to the plight of Turkey and joined the local anti-government faction. Look carefully and you can even find vintage graffiti from the glory years of the 1970s. "Free Astrid Proll" demands faded lettering near a disused station. A disreputable hand has more recently added: "With every box of cornflakes."

At the squat that bears the name of the Office for the Organisation of Unexpected Events - a peculiarly tautologous combination of anarchy and bureaucracy - there was no one at home. The organis-

er had no plans for spontaneous disruption, his girlfriend said. He had recently taken up swimming.

The 15-person command of the Red Army Faction this week wrote to Bonn promising to renounce violence in return for a reduction in sentences of its longest-serving prisoners. Experts on terrorism said the move confirmed their impression of deep frustration within the movement at its failure to change German society.

Another group calling itself the Revolutionary Cells recently disbanded with a desperate farewell-to-arms letter: "We no longer feel that our efforts are worthwhile. Imperialist Germany has swallowed up socialist Germany, and the influence of capital is as brittle and absolute as ever."

Klaus Kinkel, the justice minister, has indicated that he is ready to take a softer line with prisoners in an attempt to break what he has called "the unhappy 20-year cycle" of stereotypes prompting draconian sentences leading to further violence. He has let it be known that if the Red Army Faction ceases to organise attacks, some imprisoned terrorists could be freed on the ground that they would no longer be able to return to the underground.

The collapse of East Germany removed both an ideological inspiration and a safe haven. Ten wanted activists were found to be living under false names in the east. Many of them had cut sorry figures in court, saying they had put their violent pasts behind them and regretted their involvement. Their fate may have acted as a warning to today's urban guerrillas that terrorism and middle age do not mix.

The Red Army Faction attracted the alienated children of industrialists, bankers and politicians who had risen to social prominence in the 1960s. It exuded a potent, romantic appeal. In recent years the attacks became fewer, but the targets grander. The last victim, shot dead last Easter Monday, was Detlev Rohwedder, head of Treuhand, the agency responsible for privatisation in the East.

France cuts armed forces by a quarter

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE yesterday followed the example of Britain and other Nato allies by announcing cuts in the French conscript army of up to 25 per cent, reducing manpower from 280,000 to 210,000 over the next five years. The equivalent of a division will be scrapped each year.

The reductions announced by Pierre Joxe, the French defence minister, will also affect the air force and navy, with a proposed cut in combat aircraft from 450 to fewer than 400 and the closure of several naval air bases.

The move by France echoes defence cuts already announced by many other Nato

reducing the army by 25 per cent over the next three years, bringing the total down from 156,000 to 116,000. About 25,000 British troops will be staying in Germany.

Mr Joxe said that troops traditionally based near the German border would be redeployed and modernised for new missions. He said the Gulf war had underlined the need to increase the number of career soldiers in relation to conscripts. About 10,000 regular Foreign Legion troops were sent to the Gulf. More than half of next year's cuts will affect units made up mostly of conscripts, each of whom normally do a ten-month national service.

The defence ministry in Paris said cuts would affect 24,000 soldiers and 4,750 civilians working for the military next year. This year 15,000 military and 3,300 civilian jobs are going.

Next year's reductions will mainly affect French forces in Germany and northern and eastern France. An army corps based in the German town of Baden-Baden, an infantry division near Amiens in the north of France and an airbase at Strasbourg are to be dissolved.

Gilles de Robien, mayor of Amiens and a member of the conservative opposition, condemned the cuts as hasty at a time of instability in the former Soviet Union. "Lowering our guard seems precipitate and could make our country vulnerable," he said.

But in the week that Euro-Disney has deployed its battery of burgers, pizzas, pastas and the rest on the outskirts of Paris comes news that our Gallic neighbours are not exactly barricading themselves against the incursion of fast foods, frozen foods and foods that *maman* would never have let through the front door.

According to government researchers, French eating and drinking habits have changed profoundly over the past 20 years, to the point where they are now spending significantly more on

Gallic barricades fall to a battery of burgers

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AS WE all know, the French like to eat, lesser breeds like to live, and respective national attitudes to the pleasures of wine underline the difference.

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frozen food at the supermarket to eat, lesser breeds like to live, and respective national attitudes to the pleasures of wine underline the difference.

True, that startling figure must be considered against the preceding era in France, when indulgence in anything like this was practically a criminal offence, but there is unlikely to be any turning back on the road to the walk-in freezer. As the researchers see it, having surveyed some 10,000 households, "urbanisation" and the increased number of women working full time largely explains this shift, which has hit the

traditional corner shops very hard. Less than 5 per cent of the average French shopping basket is now bought there.

As for strong drink, while the French still top the world



consumption table, the amount of wine now consumed per capita has

plunged by nearly a third to 31.7 litres a year.

About 20 per cent of the average French family's income now goes on food, which is sharply down over the past decade, perhaps the saving goes towards paying for the other national passions, looking good and taking long, exotic holidays.

It is a pleasure to report, however, that all is not turned upside down in the land of serious gastronomy. Whatever the allure of fast foods and soft drinks in front of the telly, the French still regard eating out as one of the hallmarks of a truly mature civilisation, and they go at it with such gusto that the share of their budget devoted to restaurants has all but doubled to over 19 per cent during the past ten

years. Hooray for them and long may it last: one does not go to live in Paris to be confronted with fast foods, nor, come to that, to be haunted by faddists giving warnings about the dangers posed by a richly bourgeois diet. Did we not read lately of the extraordinary good health enjoyed by the good people of Gascony, who were practically weaned on foie gras?

Is it permissible for an exile to add, in conclusion, that whatever the French do or do not eat, they appear to thrive on it. Without a statistic to hand, one would still feel safe in asserting that there are far fewer overweight and pasty people on the streets of France than there are on the other side of the Channel.

Russia votes to change name again

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MOSCOW

THE Russian parliament voted yesterday to change the name of the country from the Russian Federation to Russia, the third name change since August.

President Yeltsin and some of his aides had proposed retaining the name Russian Federation, as the country has been known since the Soviet collapse last year. Before then the country was called the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, one of the 15 Soviet republics.

After 25 minutes of debate the Congress of People's Deputies voted 871 to 30, with 30 abstentions, to amend the constitution to make the name "Rossiya" in Russian.

Support for
billionaire
Bush and
US
50 die in
Nairobi
air crash
Ga
cha
on
A law change
Fraud alleged
Peril ignored
Woman wins
Big discounts on sched
Pickfords
WE DON'T JUST TELL YOU

Support for populist billionaire alarms Bush and Clinton

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

THE *Wall Street Journal* has never been an enemy of multimillionaires. Nevertheless, the newspaper carried two columns of letters yesterday from readers outraged by a columnist's disparagement of Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire who is likely to run for president this year.

Mr Perot was "the best hope this nation has to fix an economic mess neither party can correct", wrote John Clark of New York. "If our political leadership is hellbent on taking us off the financial cliff, it may be somewhat better to know that the Texas billionaire is in the saddle," declared Robert Ferguson of Virginia.

R.J. McCrocy of North Carolina spoke of a "gigantic swell of hope" since Mr Perot came forward. "His candidacy taps a latent energy that will bring about a change in American politics approach-



ing the collapse of the USSR. Just wait and see. Even though it's not visible from the Potomac, it is clear elsewhere.

The strength of Mr Perot's populist challenge is, in fact, becoming increasingly apparent in Washington. Two polls yesterday showed one in four Americans backing him even before he has begun campaigning.

Commentators now talk of his being the strongest, independent presidential bid

since Theodore Roosevelt won 27 per cent as a Progressive in 1912, and do not dismiss an outright victory.

The Republican and Democratic hierarchies contend with some justification that Mr Perot's support can only diminish as the electorate learns more about him. He has only the vaguest programme for government, no political experience and no national machine. What he does have, however, is that rare ability for a billionaire to tap into the ordinary American's present rage, an image as patriot and self-made businessman of almost mythical proportions, and the ability to spend more money than President Bush and Bill Clinton combined.

He has pledged to spend \$100 million (\$57 million) or "whatever it takes" on his campaign. "The potential is mindboggling," Bob Beckel, the Democratic consultant who ran Walter Mondale's 1984 presidential campaign, said. "You could reach virtually every disaffected voter and the others could only stand by and watch. You could also buy up a whole wad of commercial air time in October to make it difficult for the others to find any good time."

Mr Perot says his supporters must get him on the ballot in all 50 states before he will agree to stand, but few now doubt that he will formally declare in June. A survey in *The Washington Post* yesterday gave him 23 per cent support, just one point behind Mr Clinton with Mr Bush on 37. *A Wall Street Journal* poll gave him 26 per cent to Mr Clinton's 30 and Mr Bush's 38.

The White House fears Mr Perot will siphon off critical support for Mr Bush in the key electoral states of Texas and California, but the *Journal* poll, the most comprehensive yet, contains warnings for both parties. It shows he has support in all regions and is heading Mr Clinton in the west, draws votes from Mr Clinton and Mr Bush, and enjoys more support among independent voters than the other two combined.



Perot: has ability to tap into American rage



Upwardly mobile: Bill Clinton, campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination during a brief stop in San Francisco, shakes hands with passers-by while riding a cable car up Powell Street yesterday. He also campaigned in Los Angeles

50 die in Nairobi air crash

Nairobi: At least 50 people were killed yesterday when a Kenyan air force plane crashed in a Nairobi suburb and skidded on its belly into a block of flats where it exploded in a ball of fire, military sources said.

Lieutenant General Mohamed Mohamed, the army's Chief of Staff, said the Buffalo DHCS's left engine had cut out and the crew had attempted to make an emergency landing. "A total of 45 passengers and crew [were] on board... All on board are feared dead. Two residential flats next to the crash scene caught fire and some residents are feared to have been hurt," he added.

The crumpled tail section and torn portions of the wings were all that remained of the aircraft. (Reuters)

LA law change

Washington: Willie Williams, 48, has been appointed as the first black chief of the Los Angeles police department. He takes over a thoroughly demoralised force which has acquired a reputation for racism and brutality.

Fraud alleged

Paris: French authorities have launched fraud investigations into nine professional football clubs, including league leaders Olympique Marseille, owned by the controversial urban affairs minister, Bernard Tapie. (AFP)

Peril ignored

Kiev: Secret documents published in the Ukrainian newspaper *Pravda Ukrainy* reveal that soldiers and workers who were ordered to clean up after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident had no protection against radiation. (AP)

Woman wins

Tokyo: In a landmark decision, a court ruled that sexual harassment of women in the workplace violates rights and ordered a male editor to pay £1,430 to a former female staff for saying she was promiscuous. (Reuters)

García charged on arms

FROM AFP
IN LIMA

ALAN García, the former Peruvian president who has been in hiding since his successor dissolved parliament and suspended the constitution 11 days ago, will be charged with illegal arms possession, the interior ministry has announced.

The prosecutor handling the case has been authorised to file similar charges against Agustín Mantilla Campos, the former interior minister, who like Señor García is a member of the opposition American Popular Revolutionary Alliance.

But President Fujimori told Japanese reporters late on Wednesday that "there is no arrest order for political opposition members", including Señor García and Carlos García y García, Peru's second vice-president, a Christian evangelist, who has taken refuge in the Argentine embassy here.

Officials have said they searched Señor Mantilla Campos's house and found weapons and ammunition usually reserved for use by the police and armed forces.

The former president is to be charged with "illegal possession and use of firearms for the Aprista party," the interior ministry said, referring to the local name for Señor García's party.

He faced corruption charges after his five-year presidential term ended in 1990. The charges were dropped in January and he since has become an outspoken opposition leader.

He has been a staunch critic of President Fujimori's decision on April 5 to dissolve congress, suspend the constitution and order some opposition leaders to be held temporarily under house arrest. The former president so far has eluded house arrest, and has issued statements saying he would head a civilian resistance to President Fujimori's military-backed rule by decree.

Señor Fujimori has defended his own move, saying it was necessary for him to fight drug trafficking and clamp down on rebels.

Zimbabwe reduced to 16 days' maize supply

FROM MICHAEL HARTNACK IN HARARE

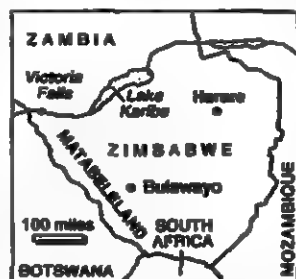
PRESIDENT Mugabe plans modest celebrations of the 12th anniversary of Zimbabwe's independence this weekend as the country endures its worst ever food shortage after the failure of the annual rains.

An official of Mr Mugabe's ruling Zanu (PF) party reported that at Chigorongwa village in the remote Zombe area of the midlands, shocked neighbours offered their scanty food reserves to try to persuade a starving family not to eat their dog, which they had roasted. Dog meat is taboo. In other areas people are reportedly trying to fill their bellies with river silt and the ground up pods of babab (cream of tartar) trees, or wild grasses.

South African help is on the way, in the form of two trains a day from the port of Durban, each carrying 700 tonnes of maize, but Zimbabwe's 10 million people consume an estimated 4,000 tonnes a day. Only 16 days supply is thought to remain in silos.

Yesterday there were the customary scenes at supermarkets as housewives scrambled for limited supplies of maize meal, sugar, cooking oil and margarine. Money raised for independence celebrations will be diverted to relieve distress, officials have promised. Joshua Nkomo, the vice-president, has reportedly cancelled plans to address an independence day rally in his home city, Bulawayo, as public discontent with the government threatens to spill over.

Mr Mugabe's sister, Sabina Mugabe, once the most fanatically loyal of ruling party backbenchers, voiced many people's fears when she said parliament last week: "The problem is that we started lying, saying there is a lot of maize coming. We do not know how to lie to them this time."



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PEOPLE

Darkness heralds Queen of Mean

Decorative lights illuminating the top of the Helmsley-managed Empire State building in New York were turned off on the orders of billionaire Harry Helmsley to mark his wife's first night behind bars. Leona Helmsley, 71, arrived at a minimum-security prison by limousine and private jet, entering through the back gates to begin a four-year sentence for tax evasion. Mr Helmsley, 83, said that turning off the lights was a "symbolic gesture". He also ordered that the lights be switched off at Helmsley Building, which is covered in gold leaf, on New York's Park Avenue.

Tadao Ando, 50, the Japanese architect, is the first recipient of the Carlsberg Architectural Award funded by Carlsberg Breweries. He is to receive it from Queen Margrethe II on May 29. His works include the Rokko apartment block in Kobe, Japan, and the Chapel on the Water and Church of Light in Osaka.

A peace mission from former US president Jimmy Carter's International Negotiation Network arrived in the Liberian capital of Monrovia. The delegation included Lisbet Palme, the widow of Swedish prime minister Olof Palme, who was assassinated in 1986.

Manfred Wörner, the secretary-general of Nato, should be back at work next month after recovering from intestinal surgery, a spokesman for the alliance said. Herr Wör-

Japan seeks role as Earth's defender

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

Long portrayed by foreign conservationists as an economic Attila the Hun, pillaging the world's rain forests and destroying marine life, Japan is now seeking a new role as a leader on the environment. As 160 nations prepare for June's Earth summit in Brazil, the Japanese are trying to cast themselves as progressives, and the rest of the developed world as Luddites, on the key issues of slowing global warming and providing ecological help to developing countries.

This week, Noboru Takemura, the former Japanese prime minister, has been hosting a conference of current and former world leaders on environmental aid. A much trumpeted "Tokyo Declaration" is to be issued today proposing an environmental tax on developed nations and a diversion of military spending to an environmental protection fund of \$125 billion (£70 billion).

Noting Japan's traditional devotion to industrialisation, sceptics are questioning the extent of Japanese conviction. Bureaucratic bickering and political inertia are likely to block environmental initiatives at home, and the nation has a thin record to point to in leading the world over ecological issues.

One exception has been Japan's policy on capping

carbon dioxide emissions, a development that has been initiated and developed by industry in conjunction with the ministry of international trade and industry. Due to the increased energy efficiency of Japan's cars, the country's per capita carbon emission level is now half the American rate.

When making a cleaner engine coincides with cutting costs, environmental consciousness in Japan is easy. But when economic viability is threatened, the environment tends to lose out, largely because for lack of a proper environmental protection movement.

When the government set up the environmental agency in 1970, it answered the fears of the ministry of trade and industry by ensuring that it would lack the clout of a full-scale ministry. Without prestige, sufficient staff or a clear mandate, the agency has had limited influence. Government ministries have been able to draft and implement policy in cahoots with private sector groups.

Japan is also ill-equipped to cope with the ecological issues that have emerged in recent years because, to its well-intentioned but politically impotent citizen-activist groups and to bureaucrats, "environment" usually means "anti-pollution", and a preoccupation with human health has meant a neglect of broader issues.

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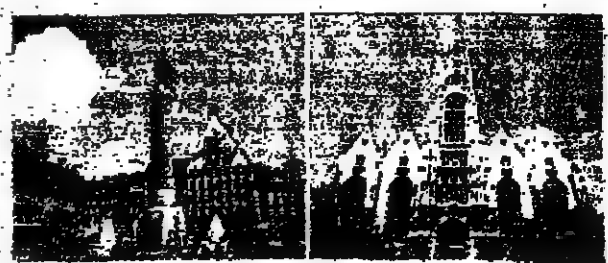
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Born to go shopping

Charles Bremner on the woes of teenage consumers

are 20th-century America seems to be putting an end to the idea of childhood, and the present generation of teenage Americans is having a miserable time.

Quite simply, American children are being treated as adults from the age of 13, while their parents and society as a whole have taken to behaving like children. Youngsters are surely not being given peace to learn when a country drops the words boy and girl as damaging to self-esteem and insists they be called young men and women. (Even toddlers are called "kindergarten students" these days.) The "pre-adults" are then asked to contend with an adult generation which flaunts its emotional turmoil, whining endlessly not only in front of their offspring but throughout the media about their failings and troubles.

Perhaps this was an inevitable result of the affluence which came to America in the 1950s, bringing with it the teen culture and then the explosion of divorce, but youngsters in America are now exposed to extraordinary pressure to spend and consume, while at the same time being confronted with evils and ills unimaginable even to the rocking rebels of the sixties.

Take the average American high school, usually a red brick building in a comfortable suburb. The parking lot is packed with cars because all but the poor drive themselves to school after the age of 16 or 17. As for dress, teenagers rich and poor follow an extravagant fashion code worthy of a medieval court. Patrick Welsh, an English teacher in an ordinary Virginia school lamented the compulsive consumerism in *The Washington Post*, noting that 80 per cent of his pupils had television sets, telephones and stereo sets in their bedrooms, and that some had videos. A school counsellor said the way American parents now lavish wealth rather than discipline on the young is creating a generation of "teenage monsters".

In a glowing account of the new "13-going-on-21" generation, *Adweek* magazine recently observed teenagers in Kansas City and found them to be "chic, yet socially committed, cost-conscious yet upscale in their tastes, fun-loving yet environmentally concerned and every bit as complicated as their parents". The feature was intended to help marketing people attract the \$60 billion per year spent by American school students, most of it in the regional shopping malls. These institutions, which multiplied in the late 1970s and 1980s, are the centre of life for millions of "mall rats", teenagers who rarely spend time elsewhere, and develop a condition known as "mall eyes". The average schoolgirl spends \$306 a year on cosmetics alone, and 93 per cent of teenage girls say shopping is their favourite pastime.

While children are busy fighting the consumer wars, they enjoy none of the protection from the upper side of life afforded to earlier generations. Her Manhattan school gave my 15-year-old daughter one project for the Easter holidays: prepare a presentation on sexually transmitted diseases. Aids education is essential, given that most American teenagers have sex before 17. Precociousness seems to have reached new levels with news this week of the criminal indictment of two seven-year-olds in Indianapolis for rape, and the trial in Washington state of a 10-year-old on charges that he raped five little girls.

Worry extends far beyond disease and the violence of inner city schools where gun detectors have had to be installed at entrances. Thanks to the violence, both emotional and physical, of the popular culture, the cares of the world weigh on the shoulders of the current teenagers. The nuclear shadow may have been lifted, and America may enjoy a peace and prosperity unknown in human history, but the average teenager will tell you the world is close to destruction. My daughter and her friends lose sleep over everything from the threat to the environment to racism, issues which are endlessly debated in their classes, magazines and on TV.

Many parents believe things have gone too far and are campaigning for a restoration of childhood and an end to the overload of information. "Kids know too much too soon," says Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council. He and leaders of similar groups agree that the fault lies entirely with parents who have failed to impart a sense of security and values to their young.

Brussels must start returning powers taken from member states, Sir Leon Brittan tells Michael Binyon

Giving way at the centre



Sir Leon Brittan: positive role for the UK

The French opposition is demanding a referendum. Germany's upper house threatens a veto unless the rights of the *Länder* are respected. Ireland is in the throes of a complicated wrangle over abortion. The Danes are bracing themselves for a large "no" vote. Almost everywhere — except in Britain — the treaty of Maastricht is in trouble. Ratification, taken for granted by European leaders as they toasted agreement four months ago, is suddenly sucking them into a vortex of doubt, debate and opposition.

Britain's senior commissioner in Brussels has, however, warned those watching the turmoil on the continent with Schadenfreude that they are deluding themselves. Maastricht will be ratified, Sir Leon Brittan said yesterday. Neither the Gaullist opposition nor the ruling socialist party in France wants the treaty to collapse. The same is true of Germany, he said: whatever the doubts about monetary union and the powers of the 16 states, no German wants to turn his back on Europe. The continental debate is an attempt to find an equilibrium, as John Major's government successfully managed before Maastricht.

Nor, Sir Leon adds, would a failure to ratify the treaty do anything but harm to Britain. It would stall all momentum in the Community. It would ruin the chances of completing the single market by the end of this year. It would scupper British plans for a rapid widening of EC membership. It would be "wholly contrary to British interests".

Sir Leon detects no tendency by the new Conservative government to gloat at the difficulties of European leaders in selling the treaty to their voters — although the same is not true of the press. He wants Britain to seize the unique opportunity to show a new government, soon to hold the EC presidency, has to exercise positive influence. "This can be perfectly legitimately exercised in favour of a Europe that is internally non-interventionist and externally open to the outside world, accommodating to new members." He adds: "The opportunity to move in that direction is there for the asking." He cites the recent banking

directives, the crackdown on state aid, and the reinforcement of competition policy to show that Brussels is moving away from a Fortress Europe mentality. The Commission is no longer attempting to prop up ailing European industries with huge subsidies: instead industrial policy now focuses upon the training of individuals.

Sir Leon does not deny the cooling of enthusiasm on the continent for the Maastricht treaty. He also sees the danger of pro-European policies, long entrenched in most states, being rejected by voters along with their governments. Ten years ago this could have hurt the Community. But now, he says, the idea of Europe has a life of its own, even after the collapse of the common commu-

nist enemy, and it will survive such changes at the polls.

With the lawyer's cautious enthusiasm which allowed him to play a vital role in tempering Conservative opposition to treaties on economic and political union, Sir Leon says Britain could take advantage of the shift in attitudes to push the Community into more open policies. To do so, however, it must demonstrate its commitment to Maastricht, show that it believes in the Community and that it wishes to be at its centre. "The question as always should not be how keen we are on the European Community, but what kind of European Community do we wish to be keen about."

He sees a Europe now poised to develop in ways much closer to the British vision than many

people in Britain realised. All members now accept the case for wider membership, although suspicions linger that British enthusiasm is still partly based on a wish to dilute the federalist influence. All are willing to make a go of the new Maastricht intergovernmental arrangements for foreign and defence policy, which leaves the initiative with member states and denies Brussels any legislative monopoly.

On one vital question Sir Leon is now willing to go a long way to answer doubts in Britain, and increasingly on the continent, over his own and his fellow commissioners' powers. He says it is time the Commission began handing back powers to the member states. To give meaning to the concept of subsidiarity, Brussels should allow national governments to recapture the right to make their own laws in all kinds of fields. He has not discussed this with fellow commissioners, but gives the regulation of drinking water as an example. This would deal with

people's prime anxiety about the Community: the ratchet effect, automatically drawing ever greater power to Brussels.

Commission ebb and flow. Brussels must have a say now in economic and monetary union, whereas 15 years ago this would have been ridiculous. But on other matters it should show that it has the self-confidence to give back powers it has accumulated.

Sir Leon, who would have resigned had Labour won power, is likely to stay on in Brussels for at least two more years, and possibly for another term after that. Already he is regarded as the most influential commissioner after Jacques Delors. He is also likely to remain an influence in Downing Street, where his latest suggestion will find ready support.

Echoing the prime minister's own wish for harmony in Britain, he said yesterday: "I hope the new Europe will not need to feel so interventionist and that the principle of subsidiarity will be given real effect. I hope the new Europe will be sufficiently at peace with itself not to feel that it does not exist unless it pokes its nose into everything."

The face of innocent suffering

The horror and cruelty of Good Friday must continue to disturb Christians, says Daniel Johnson

On Palm Sunday this year, our young priest organised a Passion play for the little children of the parish. Up the altar steps they trooped: the small boy who played Jesus wore a white surplice to be scourged and crucified; the Evangelist, a little girl, told the story in a clear, bell-like voice. Good Friday lends itself to the stage.

Yet the thought crossed my mind during this touching spectacle that the child-actors could have no inkling of what it was that they were commemorating. Could not our priest be accused of exploiting their innocence for the edification of adults, not unlike an impresario who uses a child for ignominious purposes?

The story of Good Friday tells of mass hysteria and official callousness, of unimaginable cruelty and suffering, of a son who beseeches his omnipotent father for mercy but is left to die. Had it not happened, the story would be an obscenity. Those who believe that it never happened, or at any rate not as the gospels tell it, are inclined to treat the story as a sadistic fantasy. Christians who take their faith seriously cannot but be troubled by Good Friday more than any other day in their calendar.

In art, in literature and in music, the Crucifixion has un-

dergone many transformations: it is easy to forget that there was a time when Christ was practically never represented on the Cross. In late Roman and Byzantine art, which influenced Western Europe so profoundly until at least the 13th century, Christ was commonly shown as a king or judge, as ruler of the universe (*pantocrator*).

It is tempting to suppose that during the late Middle Ages, artists espoused the Crucifixion as a subject because the barbaric plague had evoked a morbid fascination with death. More important, though, must have been the individualism of the period. Man's rediscovery of his own humanity burgeoned into the cosmology and culture of the Renaissance, and collapsed into the civil war of Christendom we call the Reformation.

The crucified Saviour was the symbol of a Europe chastened by its own sinfulness, yet still inspired by celestial visions. Over the years from 1350 to 1700 falls the shadow of the Cross: from Donatello to Titian, from Grünewald to Bach.

Go to the V & A to see Donatello's *Lamentation over the Dead Christ*, or visit Florence to see his wooden *Crucifix at Santa Croce*, or his pulpit at San Lorenzo, with its relief of the *Agony in the Garden*, *Deposition* and *Entombment*. The

sculptor's horror at the deed is palpable, yet softened by pity for the all too human victim — a "peasant", as Brunelleschi said of Donatello's model. One's breath is taken away as one enters the room filled by Titian's *Crucifixion* in the Scuola of San Rocco in Venice. But it is a vision of "resting humanity", as if the whole of Jerusalem had come to see the show.

With Grünewald's altarpiece of Isenheim at Colmar, Christ's death means the light of the soul. Bathed in a greenish lunar light, the emaciated and dislocated body of the Crucified looms over his distraught mother and Mary Magdalene, while the ghost of John the Baptist points grimly at the scene.

Bach's passions achieve a kind of consolation. But it is the consolation of attending to suffering in death. In the *St Matthew Passion*, when the gigantic final chorale dies away on a deep bass note, it is as though the spectators were being closed about our heads. The earnest desire of the chorus for "mein Jesu" is to bury him.



Dürer's Christ on the Cross: the image of the crucifixion has undergone many changes

Not pain but pleasure, not the transcendent but the natural, not God become flesh but defiled humanity was the watchword. So much so that the 19th-century artist of doubt looked back over his shoulder with yearning, fearing the prospect of an entirely godless future.

Not the countless atheists and agnostics, but two Christians — one Protestant, one Catholic — sum up the deepest thinking about the Cross of that time. Søren Kierkegaard and John Henry Newman both meditated all their lives on Christ's self-sacrifice.

Kierkegaard rejected the "romantic" view of the Crucifixion, which "accentuates the lightness of the suffering, Christ's delicate body which suffers so prodigiously; or it accentuates... the fact that He who was holy, the purest and most innocent of all, had to suffer. The paradox is that Christ came into the world in order to suffer."

Sublime as the image of the Crucifixion in Western art became during the millennium of faith, the 18th century, the age of reason, averted its gaze from the divine corpse on the Cross.

Others who suffer do so for a higher purpose: only for Christ Himself, he thought, is suffering itself the purpose. The pseudo-religiosity of Wagner's *Parsifal*, with its sumptuous Good Friday music, shows the danger of pursuing this paradox too far: suffering for its own sake can become blasphemy.

Newman was less enamoured of paradox, but he was if anything more disturbed by the enormity of the Crucifixion. In a sermon preached on Good Friday some 150 years ago, he compared Christ's suffering to that of dumb animals and little children, whose defencelessness provides an analogy. "What if wicked men took and crucified a young child? What if they deliberately seized his poor little frame and stretched out its arms, nailed them to a cross bar of wood, drove a stake through its two feet, and fastened them to a beam, and so left it to die? It is almost too shocking to say; perhaps, you will actually say it is too shocking, and ought not to be said. O my brethren, you feel the horror of this, and yet you can bear to read of Christ's sufferings without horror?"

How much less horror does Good Friday inspire today than even a century ago. Perhaps the intervening years have so much tried the capacity of mankind to feel horror and compassion that Newman's appeal is no longer sufficient. Yet if the events of Good Friday can seem less extraordinary, those of Easter must seem even more so.

Christ's Passion cannot be seen in isolation from His Resurrection. Christians who demote the Resurrection from the historical to the symbolic plane — who, in Kierkegaard's mocking phrase, consider Christianity "to a certain degree true" — are honour-bound to come to grips with Good Friday.

If Christ did not rise from the dead, what was His suffering for? If He was not God, why did God let Him suffer so? With his hideous pitilessness, the Crucifixion is powerful enough to unravel Christianity — unless it is understood as the necessary prelude to Easter.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

You will groan (and who could blame you?) to recall my obsessive search, passion for a Crickwood hero. So let me lift your spirits: the search is over. After today, you will hear no more of it. Even if other local prodigies turn up as unexpectedly as this one, they shall not test your patience. I am satisfied, now, to let the matter rest, along with the blessed remains of a paragon whose ineffable rightness for me and Crickwood sets her immovably above any putative contender.

Her name, then, and those remains lie not 200 yards from my very gate, though I didn't know this until yesterday, despite having passed them umpteen times on as many short cuts through the cemetery at the top of the road. But yesterday's was a long cut: as I negotiated the wonky crosses, April suddenly did what April suddenly does, so I shot under a maple tree to wait for it to stop doing it. I was not alone, for that is the way it is in graveyards, but I did not immediately spot who was beside me, because the moss lay thick in the chisellings. It was only when I thought I saw what I subsequently knew I had that I ran my finger down the grooves to read them out and read: "In loving memory of Marie Lloyd, born February 12, 1870, died October 7, 1922."

Even then, and even as the fingers trembled, I couldn't be sure it was her — that her, I mean. And then I read the mottled verse beneath:

Tired she was, and she wouldn't show it.
Suffering she was, and hoped we didn't know it.
But He who loved her knew, and understanding all,
Prescribed long rest, and gave the final call.

Who else could it be? You could hear her singing that first couplet, and anyone who knew anything about Marie Lloyd knew the significance of the second, because she died in the middle of her act at the Edmontons Empire, in the middle, indeed, of "One of the Ruins that Cromwell Knocked About a Bit". Furthermore, she died because she had been knocked about more than a bit by her swine of a third husband, jockey Bernard Dillon, and (since even with all that, irony remained unsatisfied) she died staggering as if drunk, but because the song required her to stagger as if drunk, the audience laughed and cheered while she terminally tottered. I do not know if He, understanding all, fixed it so that the last sound she heard was of an enraptured music hall, you would have to ask a believer, but there have been worse ways to go.

When the shower eased, I walked across to the cemetery office, and Cliff Green, who runs it, took down the book for 1922, and showed me an entry no less apt in its macabre comedy than the final call itself, in that Matilda Alice Victoria Dillon, known as Marie Lloyd, had been interred 12 ft down, for £52 2s 0d, and wink the other eye.

that her mother Matilda Wood had been interred above her (9 ft) in 1931, and her father above her (7 ft) in 1940, and her sister above him (4 ft) in 1968, and just as I had seemed to hear her sing before, now I seemed to hear her laugh, and I knew that laugh. I had heard it countless times on the wheezy old 78 I replay whenever I need a little of what I fancy to do me good, and Mr Green said there was one more thing I might like to know, which is that both gates of Fortune Green Cemetery had been opened only once, and that was on October 12, 1922.

It was the biggest funeral they had ever had, and they had been compelled to close those same gates an hour before the burial, because all three local police stations couldn't provide enough constables to control the weeping mob, and it was no good drafting in volunteers because, as you know, you can't trust a special like the old-time coppers.

Marie Lloyd, however, despite the dilly-dallying of the cortege from her house in Woodstock Road as the result of so many wreaths being hung at the cars by grieving bystanders that the half-mile journey took almost an hour, did, at last, find her way home, and I rejoice that it's just a step across the road from mine. Tonight I shall put on "A Little of What You Fancy", turn up the volume, and open the windows for her to hear.

Bunny hunters all

JOHN MAJOR will enjoy his first full day off since the election today with his family in Huntingdon. Apart from a fleeting visit last weekend, it is the first time he has returned to his constituency since the election.

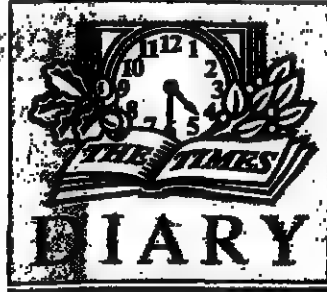
Norma has stocked up the larder for the occasion with her second expedition to the local Tesco supermarket since the election. Peter Brown, the Huntingdon Tory agent, says: "It will be nice to have John among us again. We are not planning any celebrations, although we hope we might see something of him." In truth, time will be short. After being reunited in Huntingdon with Norma and the children, James and Elizabeth, Major will tomorrow take them on to Chequers, where they are due to be joined by Norma's mother, known as Nan.

Neil Kinnock, who might have been expected to spend his first weekend in Chequers, will pass the weekend pottering around the garden of his Ealing home. "He is having a rest," said one of his aides. "The family is not planning to go away."

Faddy Ashdown, who travelled more miles than any other leader on the campaign trail, is away from home yet again, with his wife Jane. They are relaxing at their cottage in France.

Many of the new ministers will take the opportunity to jet off to sunnier climes. David Mellor, the new Secretary of State for National Heritage — dubbed the minister of fun — was not, as one might expect, sampling the cultural delights of Britain. "He has gone off in pursuit of a warmer temperature," says his office.

The contenders for the Labour leadership were also planning one



last chance to relax. Bryan Gould is spending his Easter at home. "We thought we were going to be at Mafham Street with civil servants catering to our every need. As it is, we are thrust into a leadership contest and we will have a few hours rest before heading for the Scottish TUC," says his office.

John Smith is also off to Scotland to spend the holiday climbing Scottish munros. He has so far climbed 78 of the 277, after setting himself a target of 100 by the general election. Having failed in that ambition, he has extended his deadline until the leadership election in July.

The ministry of fun has acquired another nickname. It is now being referred to in Whitehall as the bastion ministry: Broadcasting, Art, Sport, Television, Architecture, Recreation and Drama.

Appeal

FORGET CANALETTO. A far better known part of Britain's heritage is threatened with export. The bells of Shoreditch — the ones commemorated by generations of children in the nursery rhyme "Orange and Lemon" — may soon be on their way to Canada or Australia.

The 12 bells, the oldest of which dates back to 1739, hang in St Leonard's Church in the parish of Shoreditch, and they are being replaced. Number ten in particular is in a sorry state, with an irreparably large crack. "It sounds horrible," says Alan Reagan, a people-keeper at St Leonard's. The most badly damaged of the bells are to be recast, and an entirely new ring should be in place by the end of the year, pending the church's blessing.

The original bells are likely to end up in Toronto, or the Antipodes where they would join an equally famous ring, the bells of St Martin's, which are now calling the faithful to prayer in Perth. A suitable case for the new musical Andrew Lloyd Webber is threatening?

Now I've grown rich, say the bells of Shoreditch.



Chinese whispers

THEY all wanted to know, but Chris Patten was not in the mood for answering questions about his future when he appeared at a Central Office party on Wednesday night before flying off to Hong Kong. Patten came to say farewell to Angie Bray, his personal press

officer. Some 70 party workers were queuing champagne when the chairman arrived with his wife, Lavender, and two of their three daughters, Laura and Alice. Perhaps Patten was lost for words in the presence of Norman Lamont, Michael Howard, Gillian Shephard, Richard Ryder and Michael Portillo, all safely returned to the Commons and the cabinet, but he came and went within half an hour, with a kiss for Bray and a cheery wave.

Yet the affection which greeted him was born of more than sympathy. The same day the chairman had sent staff a letter congratulating them on their election effort. "The professionalism that you all showed played a significant part in enabling the party to achieve such a historic victory," he wrote. That wasn't the entire reason for the large grins, however. Patten had also generously agreed, in spite of the party's debts, to give everyone at Smith Square merit bonuses of up to 10 per cent of their annual salaries.

Newcastle upon Tyne is not, perhaps, the obvious place for an Easter break — but what if someone else pays for the petrol? That is just what Bill Paisley, general manager of the Copthorne Hotel on Tyneside is offering to do in an attempt to lure soft southerners to the land of Gaia. Recession, depression and inner city decay are alien concepts to carefree Georgians living in the thriving city, says Paisley somewhat unconvincedly. "I want to remind recession hit southerners what a buoyant economy is like," he says. Paisley is offering Depressed of Tunbridge Wells or Seaside of Streatham £50 to cover two tanks of petrol. And what if they prefer to let the South take the strain? "OK. They shall have the £50 towards the train fare."



LABOUR AND CLASS ENVY

Can Labour Win? and Must Labour Lose? were the titles of two bleak books published in 1960, after Labour had lost three elections in a row. Now the same questions are being asked after a run of four defeats. They should be exercising the Labour party members, MPs and trade unionists who are entrusted with electing the right combination of leader and deputy leader in July.

Anthony Crosland's *Can Labour Win?* predicted a 2 per cent decline in Labour's vote at each election unless "Labour can present itself as a progressive, national, social democratic party". His prophecy would have given Labour a 28 per cent share of the vote in 1987, a target it hit one election early. *Must Labour Lose?* included a commentary by Rita Hinden concluding that crumbling class solidarity, the declining appeal of public ownership and divisions within the party made defeat inevitable.

Crosland was right: only after 1983, when Labour started the long haul back towards becoming a modern social democratic party, did voters start to return. Its share rose to 31 per cent in 1987 and 35 per cent earlier this month, as it moved towards the centre ground. But Labour has not yet gone far enough towards becoming a progressive, national, classless party. A glance at the post-election map, with its blue swathe across the South and zones of red in the North and Scotland diminishes Labour's claim to represent equally all parts of the nation. And the party is still over-reliant on votes from the young and the public sector together with its traditional, dwindling, class-based support.

Becoming a social democratic party rather than a party of "labour" means shedding the class affiliations that pit one set of voters against another. It was her cross-class appeal that made Margaret Thatcher successful, and until Labour starts winning more votes from the lower middle classes and those who aspire to them, its base will be too small to deprive the Tories of victory.

In this lay the flaw in John Smith's pre-election shadow budget, which aimed to soak the "rich" (for which read middle-class) and

to sprinkle the drops (very thinly) among all those who were either retired or had children. Given that the old were disproportionately inclined towards the Tories in this election, even the potential recipients of such largesse were not grateful. But, more important, what the election showed was that many people earning less than the critical £21,060 still disapproved of the proposed higher levels of taxation of larger incomes. To them, the policy looked spiteful.

Labour has failed to respond to the changing aspirations of the British. In the 1980s the Conservative achievement was to make those born working class feel comfortable about wanting to move up in society. Britain may not yet be as socially fluid as America, but the class system is no longer frozen in ice.

Labour's policies still seem to presuppose a socially static society, where deprivation and social injustice can be corrected only by redistribution organised by government. Thus has Labour inadvertently cast itself as an enemy of social mobility. Yet inequality will strike society as unfair, demanding government correction, only if those who suffer from it are its powerless victims with no other remedies available to them. This is why the equality that really matters today is equality of opportunity.

Hence Labour must at last abandon its central policy of redistribution by punitive progressive taxation. It need not worry that if it does so, there will be nothing left to fight over. Politicians will still debate the desirable balance between tax levels and public expenditure, and more radically, perhaps, the extent to which economic and fiscal policy should take into account the social and environmental consequences of market forces.

Whoever wins the Labour leadership election must prepare his party for the next general election by recognising that the world has changed. The politics of envy have lost their potency. Labour need not lose, but it has to find new friends all over the country, and across all social classes and income groups, before it can win.

FLIGHT FROM KABUL

The collapse of the government in Kabul and the reported flight of President Najibullah brings to an end yet another bloody chapter in Afghan history. It began with the violent overthrow of President Daoud in 1978 and his replacement by hardline communists.

Najibullah had hung on to power far longer than the Mujahidin or the West expected after the Soviet withdrawal. He tried various means — adding a Muslim suffix to his name, dropping government ministers, offering talks with guerrilla leaders — to distance himself from his communist past and bolster his shaky political base by representing the regime as a non-ideological force for stability.

The United Nations agreement that led to the Soviet pull-out did not end the Afghan war. Both Moscow and Washington continued to supply weapons, including sophisticated missiles, to their former allies. The fighting was almost as bloody as during the decade of Soviet intervention, with rockets fired randomly into civilian areas and continued government bombing raids. Gradually the insurgents closed in.

Last year's agreement by the Russians and Americans to cut off arms — a measure of Moscow's bankruptcy and Washington's disillusion with fundamentalist and anti-Western guerrillas — hastened the end. The Mujahidin had plenty of weapons and supplies brought in from Pakistan and Iran; President Najibullah was soon left without food, munitions or money. In a land where loyalty is largely determined by gold and guns, he had little hope of survival.

The UN agreement removed Afghanistan as an East-West obstacle. Tribal politics were no longer overlaid with ideological significance, and control of this rugged terrain, for centuries an ungovernable buffer zone that separated rival empires, no longer affected

the balance of power in Asia. Pakistan, which had been courted with generous aid by America for its strategic access to the Afghan rebels, was rapidly dropped by Washington. Finding itself yoked to the fundamentalist cause at the expense of links with the newly independent Central Asian states, it cut the flow of arms and distanced itself from the likes of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. The war in Afghanistan faded from the world's attention.

The rapid collapse of Najibullah's forces has upset the UN plan to wind down the war gradually while preparing for an interim administration. The danger is that tribal rivalries will flare up as old scores are settled, and long suppressed rivalries fracture the Mujahidin's paper commitment to democracy. A bloodbath in Kabul would mock the increasingly fraught efforts by Benon Sevan, the special UN envoy, to install a transitional ruling council. It would also signal the end of Kabul as an effective administrative capital for the foreseeable future.

Afghanistan, if it can avoid the tribal anarchy of Somalia, is likely to revert to the kind of traditional society where there is no national authority but a series of locally negotiated pacts, no administrative structure but a patchwork of warlords and rival fiefdoms, all existing as they have for centuries against a background of continuing low-intensity warfare.

Outsiders will still try to meddle, and the variants of fundamentalist Islam will seek to promote their ideologies with the weapons still hidden in every village. But the conflicting ambitions of Iranians, Pakistanis, Tajiks, Uzbeks and other immediate neighbours will scarcely concern the wider world. Russia and the West, like the British Empire a century ago, have learnt the costs of playing the Great Game.

BOOT BUYERS BEWARE

On Sunday morning a million or so parents, full of fervour, will dress their children up for what has now become a traditional family activity: not going to church, but attending a car boot sale. Like a day at the races, this weekend pursuit combines the tantalising possibility of making money by selling junk or picking up a bargain, with fresh air, milling crowds and steaming hotdog vans.

As usual, when a spontaneous craze develops outside the scope of the authorities, killjoys move in to try to regulate its vitality. The Association of London Authorities is dying to have car boot sales licensed. Their growth has been debated in the House of Lords no less, with Lord Hailsham, in best fuddy-duddy tradition, admitting that he was not quite sure what a car boot sale was. Now the Consumers' Association is warning that buyers may face a "long slog" trying to enforce their legal rights under the Sale of Goods Act when they find their newly acquired second-hand television does not work.

Legal nighs? At a car boot sale? Anyone who buys an electrical appliance from what is no more than a jumble sale on wheels is taking a gamble as risky as placing a bet on the Grand National. But the motorist is well aware of the caveat: if the £10 TV can pick up a channel, it is a fantastic bargain; if not, it was a worthwhile punt, and the buyer can probably sell it on for the same amount the following week.

Car boot sales are a perfect example of demand meeting supply. Sellers are reluctant to go home with a full boot, and will drop their prices until all their wares have gone. Such sales are thriving in the recession. People feeling impoverished can raise a little cash by selling the contents of their attic

while others can buy second-hand goods for a snip. Around 10,000 sales take place on an average Sunday, drawing at least a million people — probably more on a double bank holiday weekend like the one ahead. The ideal weather conditions are cloudy but dry. Rain puts off the punters, while too much sun sends them off on a long walk or picnic.

Car boot sales are a relatively new phenomenon, imported from America where the yard or garage sale is an institution. Australians call them "trash-and-treasure" sales, and the quest for treasure is what draws in the thrash. A few years ago, a late 18th-century hunting painting bought for £4 in the West Country sold later for £5,500. Last year, four unpublished volumes of Sir Henry "Chips" Cannon's diaries were unearthed at a car boot sale and restored to his son, Paul.

The sales are also effective fundraisers for charity. Sellers have to pay a few pounds for the privilege of taking part, which can go towards church repairs or the maintenance of a village football pitch. And environmentalists can applaud an effective method of recycling.

Inevitably there are hazards. Some consignments of goods that have fallen off the back of a lorry may end up being sold from the back of a van. Burglars have been known to use car boot sales to offload the contents of other people's households. Professional dealers tend to arrive at dawn to snap up underpriced goods. But in Britain's black markets, as in those all over the world, the informality of the proceedings is what makes them all the more fun. Forget the Sale of Goods Act. They are to be enjoyed, but at your own peril.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Police relent on logbooks 'to maintain public confidence'

From the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

Sir, Bernard Levin makes a serious point about the effect on public confidence of this service's recent introduction of new-style surveillance logs (article, April 13).

He will, therefore, I hope, be pleased to learn that the main bone of contention, the plastic insert sheet, is to be abandoned immediately. Please, Mr Levin, no more accusations about our fear of electrostatic examination of such logs.

What Mr Levin failed to give us credit for was the rest of the system. All our surveillance log books now carry a unique number. Similarly, each page is uniquely numbered. On completion, it is signed by the officer making the notes and countersigned by his supervisor. Any alterations or

changes to the page must be noted and initialled at that time.

The much maligned plastic sheet also had a use which I am sure Mr Levin would have found acceptable. It was there to prevent anyone in one case from reading the surveillance notes from another which was completely unconnected. We will overcome this problem by using a new log book for every new case and the pages will remain in the book.

I do recognise the overwhelming importance of maintaining the high level of confidence we rightly enjoy from the public, and so, as I have said, the plastic sheet will go. Mr Levin may be assured that we pride ourselves on our ability to listen to criticism, consider it, and, when justified, react to it.

I hope Mr Levin will give us credit for this. We do care what people say

and think about us, which is why we also take note of opinion surveys. For instance, Mr Levin asserts that there has been a deterioration in police/public relations and that a gulf exists.

I must point him to the many surveys, such as one published by Gallup last September, which shows the police still have a 77 per cent satisfaction rating, although this had dropped from a previous high of 86 per cent ten years ago. The press trail far behind on 15 per cent. Is it possible that articles such as Mr Levin's are having an effect on both figures?

However, despite such surveys we are not complacent — which is why we react to criticism by change when that is the thing to do.

Yours faithfully,
PETER IMBERT,
New Scotland Yard, SW1.

African drought

From Lord Hamilton of Dalzell

Sir, I write in support of the letter from the High Commissioner for Zimbabwe (April 14). I have recently returned from a visit to Zimbabwe and Zambia and can confirm the seriousness of the situation there.

The country has suffered the worst drought for a century or more and the maize crop has virtually failed. While the plants have grown, they have died before producing any cobs.

In the past, Zimbabwe and South Africa have been exporters to Zambia, Mozambique and other countries in southern Africa. The effects of the drought, disastrous as they are for Zimbabwe, will be felt over a much wider field since all countries in the region have suffered as your report indicated in the same issue.

The High Commissioner points out the co-operation they need and are receiving from South Africa in

offering the use of its ports for delivery of the very large quantities of maize and wheat which will be required before the next harvest. This will be at this time next year. This, however, helps resolve only part of the problem.

There are already shortages of food in some remoter parts of the country which have led to disturbances. There are major logistical problems in getting through by road and rail the amounts of food required and lorries sent from South Africa to Zambia are alleged to be arriving half empty.

A catastrophe of these dimensions could lead either to an improvement in relationships between the southern African states or to recriminations. It cannot be in the interests of Western governments to allow the latter at this vital stage in the development of democracy in South Africa. There is a pressing need to offer them both financial assistance

and logistic support to help them work together to resolve the crisis.

Yours faithfully,
HAMILTON OF DALZELL,
Betchworth House,
Betchworth, Surrey.

From the Acting High Commissioner for Zambia

Sir, In my own country, Zambia, the rains have totally failed and we are experiencing the worst drought for 50 years. Boreholes and wells are dry, our cattle which people use as a source of livelihood are dying by the thousands. People are going without food because of a total crop failure.

I think it is time we put our priorities into perspective. People are starving and Zambia's bold initiative in democracy is in jeopardy. What we need is help.

Yours faithfully,
M. G. B. CHIGAGA,
Zambia House, 2 Palace Gate, W8.

Question of graffiti

From Mr Paul Redgrave

Sir, Philip Howard will persist in putting an interrogation mark after "rule or rules, OK", as in his report (April 8) on the Classical Association where, referring to women's breasts in art, he writes, "Women rule, OK".

In early modern graffiti (1600s), where the jobs territorially sprayed, "Boat Boys rule, OK", or whoever they said ruled, he will see that there was no question mark, nor should there be. There was no question, "Boat Boys rule, OK" was a plain statement — though not necessarily of fact. It was the middle classes who added the ? thus distorting the lad's message. Yobs still rule, OK.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL REDGRAVE,
Orphalos, Greenville Park,
Yelverton, Devon.

Saturday night fever

From Mr Laurence Urdang

Sir, In today's story about American Airlines (Business, April 10) mention of the (almost universal) requirement that a traveller must remain away from home on a Saturday night evoked mixed emotions.

In my attempts at struggling against that demand, I have suggested to airlines that they are responsible for making me intensely suspicious, nearly visiting on me an acute case of paranoia: their being so uniformly keen to make certain that I am away from my home on a given Saturday always made me wonder what they were planning that I might be missing.

Cordially,
LAURENCE URDANG,
4 St Mary's Row,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,
April 10.

Christ on film

From Mrs Vera Crofts

Sir, Richard Johnson's article (Week-end Times, April 11) mentions that the British Board of Film Censors, formed in 1913, prohibited the depiction of Christ.

My uncle, R. Henderson Bland, an actor, beat them to it because he played Jesus Christ in a commercial film *From Manger to Cross* in 1912.

It was made in the Holy Land and I was taken to see it in the Albert Hall. I also saw it in Ellesmere parish, church, Shropshire, in the 1920s. I understand that part of it will be included in the Channel 4 documentary *Jesus Christ Moviestar* on Easter Monday.

Yours faithfully,
VERA CROFTS (née Bland),
1 Bownshill,
Wem, Shropshire,
April 11.

Carers' pay

From Mr Phil Tomlinson

Sir, Foster carers in Kirkcaldy now receive at least £33.80 a week for a child under five and those fostering for short periods at least £42.25, not an average of £23 as stated by the author of the York Centre for Health Economics report (details, April 2). Carers of more difficult children aged 13 and over receive up to £182.65 a week.

There are also allowances for birthdays, Christmas, holidays, etc.

Yours faithfully,
PHIL TOMLINSON (Leader),
Fostering and Adoption Unit,
Kirkcaldy Metropolitan Council,
Somerset Building, Church Street,
Kirkcaldy,
West Yorkshire,
April 15.

Addressing the issues

From Mrs Christina Speight

Sir, During the election we were regaled with endless comments on campaign tactics and rarely heard about policies. Then the commentators had the nerve to suggest the parties were not addressing the issues. My abiding memory is of Paddy Ashdown saying "I'm not going to indulge in a slanging match; I'm going to talk about policy". At which point he was immediately cut off. We heard a lot about John Major's soap box but were rarely given the opportunity to hear what it was he said when he was on it.

Although I realise the BBC and ITN were fed with photo-opportunities of Neil Kinnock playing with a toy on a see-saw and John Major with an owl, they didn't have to broadcast such rubbish. They're supposed to be independent and to judge items on their news value.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTINA SPEIGHT,
20 Ramillies Road, W4.

Cheltenham's vote

From Councillor Robert Wilson

Sir, Where is the evidence to corroborate the allegations that the defeat of John Taylor, the black Conservative candidate in Cheltenham, was brought about by racism?

Although Mr Taylor was only selected 16 months ago, his result was only 2,688 votes short of the record poll achieved in 1987 by the then sitting member, Sir Charles Irving, in a three-cornered fight. If only prudent allowance is made for the loss of Sir Charles's personal cross-party vote, the participation of three other candidates and the tactical switch of a significant number of Labour supporters, it will be seen that Mr Taylor's defeat was indeed a close-run thing.

It should also be noted that the swing from the Conservatives here of 5.21 per cent was less than in either nearby Gloucester (5.34) or Stroud (6.21) where incumbent MPs were standing, and only a little worse than Bath, where 4.95 per cent defeated a Cabinet minister.

Community care

From the Director General of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation

Sir, Now that the composition of the new government is settled, can it turn its mind to, inter alia, community care matters? So much is still hoped for from the white paper, "Caring for People", which accompanied the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990.

Yet one recommendation which clearly stood out in the Griffiths report, "Agenda for Action", and not followed up was that a separate minister for community care was

needed to unify the overlapping needs of care and health provision for disabled people and others in the community.

Can the Department of Health tell us which of its new ministers will assume this responsibility? Now that full implementation of the act is less than a year away this is most important. If ambiguity and gaps in provision are to be avoided and financial issues genuinely tackled.

Yours truly,
JAMES STANFORD,
Director General,
The Leonard Cheshire Foundation,
26-29 Mansel Street, SW1.

John Major's approach and that of Michael Heseltine and today I look forward optimistically to a new "Majorism" as a foundation for our own strategy in this school.

Our new approach includes the creation of a new style of general engineering courses and a general engineering approach to industrial research.

My experience suggests that the basic problem is the obstacles to change within the higher education institutions. This may well alter under the new "Majorism" — of empowerment of individual opportunities and a dissipation of the hierarchical slavishness to professional institutions.

Yours sincerely,
D. M. R. TAPLIN
(Head of Plymouth School of Manufacturing),
Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon,
April 15.

Christian concern at tax avoidance

From the Rector of Christ Church, Duns

Sir, I have been shocked by some of the ingenious forms of precautionary tax avoidance practised by City firms, for example the case you mentioned (report, April 4) of higher earners being given their entire year's salary to escape the consequences of a Labour government budget.

The underlying assumption seems to be that high earners have a right to avoid paying tax wherever possible, provided their behaviour is not illegal. And there seems to be a second assumption that loyalty is based exclusively on a cash nexus, sealed by cash in advance. Are we to assume that this means no tax-free cash up front, no loyalty?

On Sunday evenings our congregation has been examining the Ten Commandments and exploring their implications for Christian life today. We do not have many merchant bankers or advertising personnel in our congregation. But the dominant culture, of which tax-avoidance schemes are perhaps symptomatic, make a sombre backdrop for our reflections.

The Ten Commandments and Jesus's teaching in the Sermon on the Mount underline the fact that our love of God and our care for our neighbour, that is for other members of society, are inextricably linked. Where the Old Testament expresses the standards that God sets for his people in terms of a clear-cut moral and legal code the New Testament insists that we look behind the actions at the underlying motives. Thus, where the Sixth Commandment is a clear injunction against murder, Jesus insists (Matthew 5: 21-24) that malicious anger and similar negative emotions are equally culpable.

From the perspective of our Sunday evening reflections I find the reported forms of tax avoidance wholly unacceptable. They are a denial of love and concern for our neighbour. As a contribution to the well-being of our country the activities of the financial consultants seem to me highly questionable.

During the past decade or so our dominant culture seems to have legitimised private greed by re-labelling it "wealth creation". The election campaign showed a conspicuous lack of moral or ethical debate. I should be delighted if representatives of all political parties were willing to condemn such forms of tax avoidance and those financial consultants advocating them.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS MARTIN,
The Rectory, Wellfield,
Duns, Berwickshire,
April 14.

However, extensive canvassing showed the race issue to be, at best, marginal, more than counterbalanced by a strong pro-Taylor vote from many non-Tory constituents. Bearing in mind that we suffer a Lib Dem county council, a Labour borough council (24 to 8 Tories) and that they have targeted this seat assiduously since 1983, the Lib Dems should be asking why their majority was so meagre. Well done, John Taylor.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WILSON,
The Old Sudeley Arms,
21 Hailes Street, Winchcombe,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

From Mrs Carola Behard
Sir, I voted Liberal Democrat in Cheltenham. This was a tactical vote. I had to vote this way because I am so prejudiced against John Taylor: he is a Conservative.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLA BEHARD,
29 Burton Street,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Points of order

From Mr John Whitmore

Sir, In calling for a tolerant use of patronage your leader ("Not one of us", April 14) is praiseworthy. But appointments in the gift of government would hardly even appear to be patronage at all if selection took place after open advertisement and objective job-related criteria for choosing were established.

We saw what I hope to be the beginnings of a healthy development when the post of Director of Public Prosecutions was advertised. An open society in which equal opportunity flourishes requires such a practice.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WHITMORE,
21 Portland Road, Leicester.

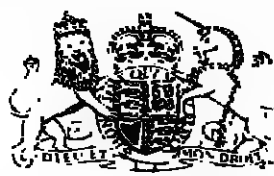
From Mr Douglas Verrall
Sir, I am glad that the headteachers of our schools are not changed as frequently as is the Secretary of State for Education.

Yours sincerely,
DOUGLAS VERRALL,
3 Springfield Road,
St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.

From Mr Basil Hoole

Sir, Is it too unkind to suggest that we ought to revert to the good old days when MPs bought their votes with their own money?

Yours faithfully,
BASIL HOOLE,
Copper Coin, Priestlands,
Sherborne, Dorset.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 16: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visited Chester and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cheshire (Mr William Bromley-Davenport).
Her Majesty and His Royal Highnesses drove to Chester Cathedral and were received by the Lord Bishop of Chester (the Right Reverend Michael Baughen) and the Dean of Chester (the very Reverend Doctor Stephen Smalley).
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attended the Maundy Service in Chester Cathedral at which Her Majesty distributed the Royal Maundy.
The Lord High Almoner (the Right Reverend John Taylor) and the Sub-Almoner (the Reverend William Booth) were present.
Afterwards, The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, honoured the Lord Mayor of the City of Chester (Councillor Mrs Susan Proctor) with her presence at luncheon in the Town Hall and presented her with the Letters Patent conferring the title of Lord Mayor of Chester.
The Duchess of Grafton, Sir Kenneth Scott and Wing Commander David Walker, RAF, were in attendance.

By command of The Queen, the Viscount Boyle, Lord of Warrington, was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the departure of The President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and bade farewell to His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 16: The Duke of Kent, Trustee, the Science Museum, this morning opened the new National Railway Museum in York, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for North Yorkshire (Sir Marcus Worsley, Bt).
Commander Roger Walker, RN, was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent this morning visited Chalky Heritage, Chalky, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for East Sussex (Admiral Sir Lindsay Byson).

This afternoon, Her Royal Highness visited the Thomas Pakenham School, Rye, and later visited Rye Heritage Centre and Friary Gardens, Winchelsea.
Mrs Peter Wilmet-Sinwell was in attendance.

Short sees victory slip from grasp

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL Short, Britain's hope in the world chess championship semi-final, came frustratingly close to victory in the adjourned third game of his world qualifying title match in Linares, Spain, against the former world champion Anatoly Karpov.

Short had adjourned the game with what looked like an overwhelming advantage and in a marathon second session of play, which finished on Wednesday night, he extended his plus to a two-pawn lead.

Karpov's situation seemed hopeless but at this moment Short lost the thread of the game and instead of driving home his advantage he allowed the ex-like Karpov to slither out with a half point.

In the final position Short is a pawn ahead but the particular configuration of the pieces remaining on the board makes it impossible to advance his pawn to become a queen.

Recognising the futility of further attempts Short extended his hand and offered a draw. The score is now 2-1 in Karpov's favour.

In the second game of the concurrent semi-final in Linares between Anur Yusupov and the top Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman, a draw was agreed in 46 moves, after Timman had missed a probable win. The score in that match, is now 1-1 in favour of Yusupov.

Both matches have a prize fund of 300,000 Swiss francs and are for the best of ten games.

The moves for the third Short-Karpov game were as follows:

Karpov (white)		Short (black)	
1	d4	1	d5
2	c4	2	c6
3	e3	3	e6
4	f3	4	f6
5	g3	5	g6
6	h3	6	h6
7	a3	7	a6
8	b3	8	b6
9	c3	9	c6
10	d3	10	d6
11	e3	11	e6
12	f3	12	f6
13	g3	13	g6
14	h3	14	h6
15	a3	15	a6
16	b3	16	b6
17	c3	17	c6
18	d3	18	d6
19	e3	19	e6
20	f3	20	f6
21	g3	21	g6
22	h3	22	h6
23	a3	23	a6
24	b3	24	b6
25	c3	25	c6
26	d3	26	d6
27	e3	27	e6
28	f3	28	f6
29	g3	29	g6
30	h3	30	h6
31	a3	31	a6
32	b3	32	b6
33	c3	33	c6
34	d3	34	d6
35	e3	35	e6
36	f3	36	f6
37	g3	37	g6
38	h3	38	h6
39	a3	39	a6
40	b3	40	b6
41	c3	41	c6
42	d3	42	d6
43	e3	43	e6
44	f3	44	f6
45	g3	45	g6
46	h3	46	h6
47	a3	47	a6
48	b3	48	b6
49	c3	49	c6
50	d3	50	d6
51	e3	51	e6
52	f3	52	f6
53	g3	53	g6
54	h3	54	h6
55	a3	55	a6
56	b3	56	b6
57	c3	57	c6
58	d3	58	d6
59	e3	59	e6
60	f3	60	f6
61	g3	61	g6
62	h3	62	h6
63	a3	63	a6
64	b3	64	b6
65	c3	65	c6
66	d3	66	d6
67	e3	67	e6
68	f3	68	f6
69	g3	69	g6
70	h3	70	h6
71	a3	71	a6
72	b3	72	b6
73	c3	73	c6
74	d3	74	d6
75	e3	75	e6
76	f3	76	f6
77	g3	77	g6
78	h3	78	h6
79	a3	79	a6
80	b3	80	b6
81	c3	81	c6
82	d3	82	d6
83	e3	83	e6
84	f3	84	f6
85	g3	85	g6
86	h3	86	h6
87	a3	87	a6
88	b3	88	b6
89	c3	89	c6
90	d3	90	d6
91	e3	91	e6
92	f3	92	f6
93	g3	93	g6
94	h3	94	h6
95	a3	95	a6
96	b3	96	b6
97	c3	97	c6
98	d3	98	d6
99	e3	99	e6
100	f3	100	f6

novelist and dramatist, Madison, Wisconsin, 1897.

DEATHS: Benjamin Franklin, statesman and scientist, Philadelphia, 1790.

The attempted invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs, 1961, Rhodesia became the independent state of Zimbabwe, 1980, WPC Yvonne Fletcher was killed by a shot from the Libyan Embassy, London, 1980; Thornton Wilder,

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Ford, dramatist, Ilminster, Devon, 1886; Henry Vaughan, poet, Llangindwr, 1622; Edward Gibbon, historian, London, 1731; James Thomson, sculptor, Lochiel, Tayside, 1818 (he died on this day, New York, 1850); Constantine Cavafy, poet, Alexandria, Egypt, 1893; Sir Leonard Woolley, archaeologist, London, 1880; Thornton Wilder,



The Queen was overwhelmed by gifts of daffodils during a walkabout yesterday after she distributed Maundy money at Chester Cathedral. Among the 132 recipients was Terry Waite's mother. Afterwards the Queen told Lena Waite, 78: "I think your son is wonderful."

The 66 men and 66 women — 10

mark the Queen's 66th birthday this year — received the money in recognition of the Christian service they have rendered to the church and the community. The ceremony has its roots in the last supper of Christ. A spokesman for the Chester Diocese, the Rev Tim Barker, said: "I would imagine Mrs Waite has been selected

particularly because of the great courage and enduring Christian strength she showed during her son's imprisonment."

The Queen arrived at the cathedral, celebrating its 900th anniversary this year, to the cheers of crowds waiting outside in the spring sunshine. She walked up the cathedral

aisle with the Duke of Edinburgh, followed by Yeomen of the Guard bearing purses containing the money on trays above their heads.

After the service, Mrs Waite, of Lymm, Cheshire, said it was an honour to have been chosen. "The Queen asked me how Terry was and I said he was fine."

Astronomy

Light cast on 'dark matter'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

DURHAM University astronomers have used the Hubble space telescope to provide independent confirmation of the existence of "dark matter" in space.

The result was announced at a meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society at Durham this week and marks a triumph both for the much derided space telescope and for the theory that the universe is largely made up of material which we cannot see or sense.

Professor Richard Ellis and colleagues from Durham and the University of New South Wales took a gamble by devoting all 12 hours of their observing time on the Hubble

telescope by pointing it at a single object, a remote galactic cluster called AC114. By looking for so long in the same direction, they hoped to overcome the optical deficiencies of the telescope by sheer weight of data. The payoff worked, and they produced an image between five and ten times crisper than anything possible from the Earth.

The result is that they can use the image to assess the degree to which light from even more distant objects passing through the galactic cluster is bent by gravity, an effect first predicted by Einstein. "In effect, we are observing the effect of a galactic

'lens' whose focusing power depends on its mass," Professor Ellis said. "By observing the distortion of light passing through the lens, we can work out the mass of the galaxy."

The result turns out to be consistent with earlier calculations, based on the movements of galaxies, that suggest that at least nine-tenths of the material in the universe is invisible. This so-called "dark matter", which could be neutrinos, black holes, or exotic and hitherto unknown particles, is important as well as mysterious, because the amounts of it will determine whether the universe goes on expanding for ever or eventually collapses.

York rail museum steams into future

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE fruits of a £6 million improvement and repair programme were seen yesterday when the National Railway Museum at York was re-opened by the Duke of Kent after a two-year refit.

After doubling its size to fill a 17-acre site next to York's mainline station, the museum is now the largest of its kind in the world.

Its director, Andrew Dow, is convinced that the exhibition should not just be a collection of old steam locomotives, but a display of the history of railways up to the present day.

As a consequence visitors will enter the former engine shed through a 24ft high complete ring section of the Channel Tunnel towering over surrounding exhibits.

Close by will be one of British Rail's latest passenger coaches. Mr Dow said: "Only

7 per cent of our visitors are railway enthusiasts. We want to attract families looking for a good day out and who will not get bored by a daunting display of old technology."

The museum, which opened in York in 1975 had to close two years after faults were discovered in its concrete roof supports.

A temporary exhibition on an adjoining site, "The Great Railway Show", was so successful that it won the 1991 Museum of the Year award and as a result will now become a permanent, show alongside the repaired and expanded museum building.

Richard Gibbon, the curator of engineering, said: "The museum is not about steam locomotives, it's about the history of railways, the line, the ports, the uniforms, the rail unions, anything at all to do with railways. Our duty is to illustrate the whole scene."

Luncheons

HM Government
Mrs Lynda Chalkley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development, was host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House yesterday in honour of Ms Catherine Bertini, Executive Director of the World Food Programme.

London Europe Society
The Lord Mayor of London was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the London Europe Society held yesterday at the St Ermin's Hotel. Mr Derek Prag, MEP, chairman of the society, presided. Among those present were The Greek Ambassador, the Hungarian Ambassador and other members of the Diplomatic Corps. Baron Vass and Sir Frank Roberts.

Appointments

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Piggott to be Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London.

Mr Peter Christopher will be Head of King Edward VI Aston School, Birmingham.

Iraqi sites 'devastated' in quest for farmland

By NORMAN HAMMOND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL sites in Iraq are more endangered now than they were at the height of the Gulf war, a leading American scholar has reported. Economic hardships have led to large tracts of marginal land being ploughed up for subsistence agriculture, including ancient cities untouched for millennia.

Professor Paul Zimansky, of Boston University, said: "We're in for very dark times. It is the worst kind of devastation for archaeology."

The professor recently visited Iraq to assess conditions at Mashkan-shapir, an Old Babylonian capital 75 miles from Baghdad which he and Dr Elizabeth Stone rediscovered three years ago.

He found that the site, which had been far from any cultivation when they were

last able to dig there in 1990, was now cut off by a network of irrigation ditches, canals and ploughed fields. "We could not get to the site," Professor Zimansky said. "We still don't know if it's all right or not."

There has also been widespread looting of sites in the countryside, he said. The Antiquities Department has no telephones or vehicles, and has been unable to assess the damage. Some of the regional museums may have been robbed and their collections damaged.

No foreign expeditions are yet working again in Iraq but Iraqi archaeologists hope to begin investigations again this spring. Professor Zimansky said. He and Dr Stone had found "a complete absence of anti-Americanism" in their travels.

Latest wills

Michael John, Earl of Aldwyne, of Williams Park, Coln St Aldwyne, Gloucestershire, former Government Chief Whip and Opposition Chief Whip in the House of Lords, left estate valued at £1,252,888 net.

Mr Michael Frederick Shepherd, of York, left estate valued at £2,992,537 net.
Sir Alfred John Ainsley, of Watlington, Oxfordshire, former Chief Justice of Kenya, left estate valued at £346,542 net.
Mr Hyde Charnock Whaley, of Cambridge, former Director of Studies in Law at Cambridge University and Emeritus Fellow of Downing College, left estate valued at £815,316 net.

Other estates include (net before tax paid):
Mrs Fernande Marcelle Baker, of Marlborough, Wiltshire, £1,746,995
Mrs Edwin Cecil Beal, of Malton, North Yorkshire, £724,889
Mr Harold Chapman, of Ferring, West Sussex, £1,880,400

Mrs Diana Marion Josephine Chudley, of Cretton, Northants, £2,149,803
Katherine Hall, of London, W2, £1,584,970
Mr John Kenneth Hill, of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, £1,203,757
Mrs Doris Jean Elizabeth Lee, of Solihull, West Midlands, £1,875,032

Mr Leon Vincent Rapella, of Hatch End, Middlesex, £730,513
Mr George Robinson, of Gainsford, Co Durham, £629,688
Mrs Ruby-Moreen Robinson, of Hilborough, Norfolk, £965,564
Mrs Ruby Elizabeth Sorfield, of Southampton, Hants, £796,105
Mr Stephen John Wallace, of Colchester, Essex, £649,033

Mr George Westerdale, of Swanton, North Humber, £1,486,783
Mrs Mary Christina Wallis, of Brayson Square, London, W1, £1,223,585

Forthcoming marriages

Mr L.W.J. Baart and **Miss C.M. Cooke**
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs L.W. Baart, of Harwood, Shropshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.J. Cooke, of Ravenshead, Nottinghamshire.

Mr T.M.T. Baines and **Miss E.M. Edgley**
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mrs Penelope Baines and the late Mr Tim Baines, of London, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Dennis Edgley, of Nunsey, Somerset.

Mr R.M. Bromley-Davenport and **Mrs S.J. Williams**
The engagement is announced between Robert, only son of the late Mr and Mrs R.A. Bromley-Davenport, of Ascot, Berkshire, and Susan (née Williams), widow of Dr T.H.J. Williams, of Eastleigh, Hampshire.

Mr T.E.O. Bury and **Miss P.M.S. Lowe**
The engagement is announced between Thomas, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Bury, of Blackmore, Essex, and Patricia, only daughter of the late Mr Stephen Lowe and of Mrs Margaret Lowe, of Epsom, Surrey.

Mr D. Gwillim and **Miss J.M. Kavanagh**
The engagement is announced between David, only son of the late Mr C.M. Gwillim, FRCS, and Mrs Ines Quinlan, of Bramley, Kent, and young daughter of Mr and Mrs E.J. Kavanagh, of Toronto, Canada.

Mr W.G. Bailey and **Miss L.P. Mcardle**
The engagement is announced between William, only son of Mr and Mrs David Bailey, of Dulwich, London, and Louise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Mcardle, of Worsley, Manchester.

Mr G. Walker-Moore and **Miss L. Orchard**
The engagement is announced between George, younger son of Mr Hugh Walker-Moore and the late Mrs Irene Walker-Moore, of Kinnel, Essex, and Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Orchard, of Carandish, Perthshire.

Marriage

Mr J.G. Barrow and **Miss J. Rouse**
The marriage took place on Friday, April 10, 1992, at Moulton, Newmarket, of Mr John Barrow, of Moulton Manor, Newmarket, and Miss Alice Rouse, of Melbury Hall, Woolpit, Suffolk.

University news

Queen's Belfast
Appointments
To a chair of social work: Dr Shantana Dorota Iwaniec, Lecturer in Social Work, University of Leicester, and Dr Shantana Dorota Iwaniec, Lecturer in Social Work, University of Leicester.
Senior lecturer: Dr Margaret Elizabeth Copley (principal in general practice); Thomas Diamond (consultant in surgery).
Lecturer: Peter Shirlow (economic geography); Dr Glenn Dickson (anatomy); Dr Finbar McCormick (scientific archaeology); Dr Stephen MacCallough (sociology); Dr Michael Taylor Cairns (molecular oncology); Christopher Marsh (modern history); Lesley McTurk (philosophy, applied ethics).
Visiting professors: Dr Maggie Humm, co-ordinator of women's studies, East London Polytechnic; Rose Montague, lecturer and author, Texas Tech University; Dr Peter Shirlow, lecturer in sociology, University of Wales College of Cardiff.

Builders Merchants' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Builders Merchants' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr H.A. Tacey; Senior Warden, Mr M. Pares; Junior Warden, Mr A.B. Castleden.

Judge retires

Judge Toyn has retired from the circuit bench on the Midland and Oxford Circuits. He became a circuit judge 20 years ago.

Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

<p>BIRTHS</p> <p>AYNSLEY - See Molyneux. On April 14th, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Aynsley.</p> <p>COADY - On April 13th, at the Countess of Chester Hospital, to Marie and John, a son, Alexander John Coady.</p> <p>CRUICKSHANK - On March 28th, to Hilary and David, a daughter, Sophie.</p> <p>MOLYNEUX - On April 14th, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Molyneux.</p> <p>RAMSDEN - On April 11th, 1992, to Ian and Helen, a son, David Ramsden.</p> <p>SMITH - On Thursday, April 16th, at the Harrogate Clinic, to Claire and Michael, a son, Alexander Charles Smith.</p> <p>SWANBRICK - On March 27th, to Louise and Andrew, a son, George Louis Swanbrick.</p> <p>VOGE - On April 14th, at the Humana Hospital, to John and Jane, a son, James Voge.</p> <p>WARD - On March 24th, 1992, to Michael and Caroline, a daughter, Sophia Elvira.</p>	<p>DEATHS</p> <p>COLEMAN - Suddenly, on April 14th, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Coleman.</p> <p>DOYLE - On Wednesday, April 15th, 1992, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Doyle.</p> <p>ELSTON - On March 16th, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Elston.</p> <p>GUTHRIE - On April 15th, 1992, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Guthrie.</p> <p>HARRISON - On April 14th, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Harrison.</p> <p>HORNE - On April 14th, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Horne.</p> <p>LEEFE - On April 14th, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Leefe.</p>	<p>DEATHS</p> <p>LYGO - On April 13th, 1992, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Lygo.</p> <p>MITCHELL - On April 15th, 1992, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Mitchell.</p> <p>MORRISON - On April 15th, 1992, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Morrison.</p> <p>SWALLOW - On April 15th, 1992, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Swallow.</p>	<p>DEATHS</p> <p>STANLEY - On April 15th, 1992, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Stanley.</p> <p>THOMPSON - On April 14th, 1992, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Thompson.</p> <p>TRUSCOTT - On April 15th, 1992, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Truscott.</p> <p>WICKSON - On April 15th, 1992, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Wickson.</p>	<p>LEGAL NOTICES</p> <p>NOTICE OF CREDITORS: MEETING UNDER SECTION 482 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986</p> <p>BRITISH MAIN FACTORY AND RESEARCH CO LIMITED</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 482 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of the Insolvency Practitioner, Messrs. [Name], of [Address], on [Date] at [Time].</p>	<p>LEGAL NOTICES</p> <p>THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 482 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of the Insolvency Practitioner, Messrs. [Name], of [Address], on [Date] at [Time].</p>
<p>DEATHS</p> <p>BERNARD-COULAND - On April 14th, 1992, at the Molyneux, to Robert and Anne, a son, James Molyneux Bernard-Couland.</p>					

OBITUARIES

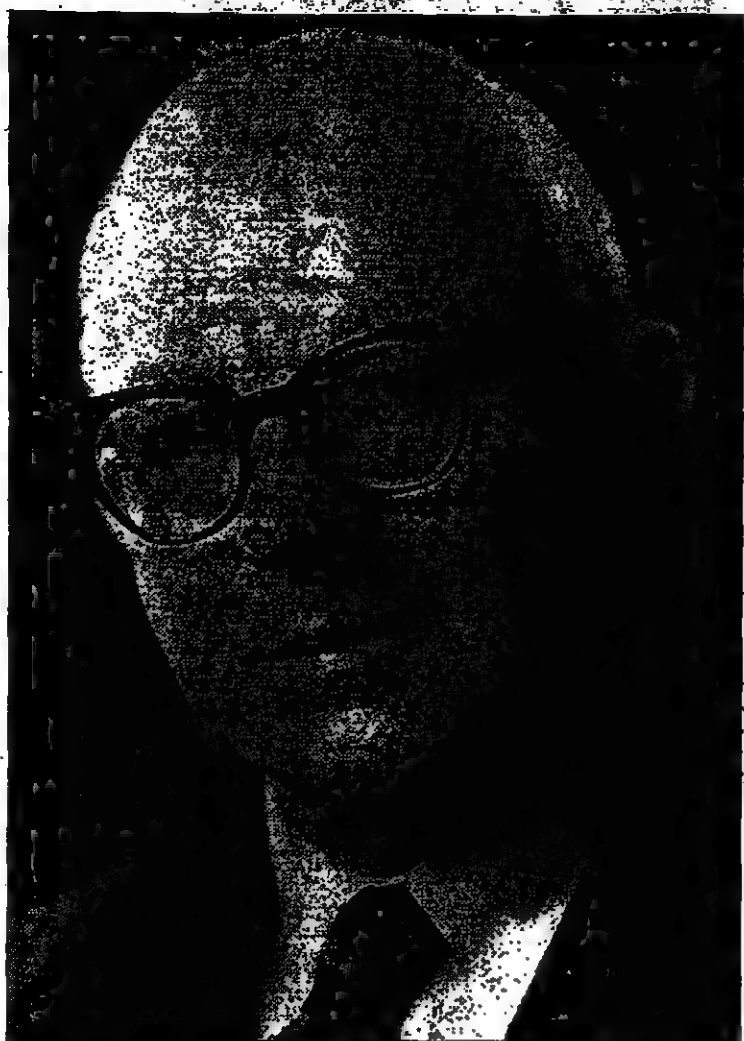
SIR CLIFFORD DARBY

Professor Sir Clifford Darby, CBE, professor of geography in the University of Cambridge, 1966-77, died on April 14 aged 83. He was born at Resolven, Glamorgan, on February 7, 1909.

CLIFFORD Darby (H. C. Darby, as he was known through his writings) exercised a profound influence on the development and understanding of historical geography both in this country and the United States. He is most widely known for the magisterial work *The Domesday Geography of England* which appeared in seven volumes between 1952 and 1977. This *magnum opus* was largely conceived by Darby; he was its general editor and contributed very substantially to the work, whose first six volumes covered the country, region by region, and were summarised in a seventh. In this great enterprise he thus became one of that rare group of academics who have single handedly established an active school of researchers, whose members were able to absorb and expand his original ideas.

This undertaking called for scholarship of the highest order and demonstrated Darby's capacity to marshal decisive evidence with candour and patience. But like all his achievements it rested on a strongly practical bent as a geographer, an ability to elaborate medieval geography using land surveys, and the capacity to reconstruct a vanished landscape from contemporary documents. These same qualities, incidentally, had enabled him to play an important role in wartime naval intelligence.

Henry Clifford Darby was educated at Neath County School and entered St Catharine's College, Cambridge, when he was only 16. This unusually early entry was more than justified by his subsequent career: he took first class honours in both parts of the geographical tripos. After graduation Darby began research on the Fenland under Bernard Manning who had a great effect on his work. In 1929 he visited southern Africa at the time of the meeting of the British Association in Cape Town, but more particularly at the suggestion of Isiah Bowman, then director of the American Geographical Society, that he should undertake some work which led to



the publication of *Pioneer Problems in Rhodesia and Nyasaland* in 1932.

He had taken his PhD in 1931 and in that same year succeeded Manning as lecturer in historical geography at Cambridge. In the following year he was elected to the Bhrmar fellowship at King's College, where he met Sir John Clapham, who had considerable influence on his academic outlook. Until the outbreak of war Darby was busy at research and teaching, and edited and contributed to *An Historical Geography of England before 1800* which appeared in 1936. *The Medieval Fenland and The Draining of the Fens*, which both appeared in 1940, were distinguished by careful scholarship and

showed how fully Darby appreciated the geographical and historical aspects of a process, which has steadily altered the character of this erstwhile "protruding amphibious district" since the end of the middle ages.

In 1940 Darby was commissioned in the Intelligence Corps. There he directed a team whose aim was to produce a series of documents which would explain to practical navy men, whether captains of ships, midshipmen in charge of boats, or leaders of parties of marines, the nature of any coast they might be called upon to invade. This undertaking involved not merely describing physical features — capes, bays, beaches and creeks — but also explaining in a lucid manner what

languages, industries and other economic characteristics the assaulting forces might have to cope with, once ashore. From 1941 to 1945 Darby was intimately associated with the publication of the Admiralty handbooks which were prepared at the Scott Polar Research Institute. For his war work he was made OBE in 1946.

In 1945 Darby was appointed to the John Rankin chair of geography at Liverpool. There he revived and rehabilitated the department which had been evacuated during the war, and whose staff had been scattered. He gathered around him some very able young men, several of whom were later elected to professorships in other universities. He developed research activities and established a strong technical side — a development he extended considerably when he went to London in 1949.

At University College he succeeded C. B. Fawcett in the oldest chair of geography in this country. He strongly encouraged research and publication by his colleagues and pupils and he built up a large and distinguished department. He was active in establishing joint appointments with the School of Slavonic Studies and the Latin American Institute. During this time he made several visits to America and was visiting professor at Chicago, 1952; Harvard, 1959 and 1964-65; and Washington, 1963.

In 1966 he moved to the chair at Cambridge and resumed his association with King's College, where he was elected to a professorial fellowship and on his retirement in 1976 became an emeritus fellow. Unfortunately he arrived at Cambridge at a time of financial stringency and was only partially able to expand the developments in the scope and content of the tripos which had already begun. What was even more frustrating was the severe limitation in the appointment of new staff.

It was also a time when, in all universities, staff-student relations were beginning to pose problems, with the hitherto acknowledged right of age and experience to lecture to callow youth being everywhere called into question. Geography in Cambridge and elsewhere was scarcely affected in this way, but Darby soon showed by his attitude and approachability that he was well able to talk effectively to the

occasional undergraduate in his department who was imbued with those fashionable doctrines which considered acquiring some acquaintance with the wisdom of ages to be an activity inferior to "spontaneous response" to one's immediate surroundings. Part of Darby's authority with the young in an informal manner lay in the fact that he was such an excellent communicator as a teacher and lecturer.

None of his university preoccupations checked — as they so often, regrettably, do, when creative scholars become embroiled in the minutiae of academic wrangling — a steady flow of publications, both as contributor and editor. His *A New Historical Geography of England* of 1973 appeared in a two-volume edition three years later and *The Changing Fenland* was published in 1983. Meanwhile older works of his continued to be popular. *The University Atlas* (edited with H. Fullard) of 1937 went through its 22nd edition in 1983, while *The Library Atlas* (also with H. Fullard), which had appeared in the same year, was in its 15th edition by 1981. These two editors collaborated again on *The New Cambridge Modern History Atlas* which was published in 1975 and immediately acknowledged as being unexampled in its field.

Darby's scholarship and practical ability were recognised in many ways: he was a member of the English Name Society and also of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments. From 1958 to 1963 he was a member of the National Parks Commission, and from 1964 to 1968 of the Water Resources Board. He was president of the Institute of British Geographers in 1961 and chairman of the British National Committee for Geography, 1973-78. America and the Netherlands honoured him and in 1957 he was made an honorary member of the Croatian Geographical Society. At home, he was also made an honorary member of the Royal Geographical Society and, in addition to his numerous honorary degrees, and fellowship of the British Academy, was created CBE in 1978 and knighted in 1988 for his services to the study of historical geography.

He married in 1941 Eva Constance Thompson. She and their two daughters survive him.

J. W. DEEGAN

Joseph William Deegan, a former inspector-general of the colonial police, died on April 14 aged 93. He was born on February 8, 1899.



he was brought back to London in 1956 as deputy inspector-general of the colonial police. He retired after five years, only to return in 1963 for two more years and eventually to serve as inspector-general himself in 1966-67.

He travelled the world in his Colonial Office job, throughout the West Indies, Africa and Asia. He investigated corruption in the Caribbean and advised his political masters in Whitehall on the internal security of countries which were being considered for independence from Britain.

A quiet thoughtful Irishman, Deegan was educated at schools in his native Dublin and began work as a tea boy on *The Irish Times*. But his life changed in 1919 when he joined the army and while serving as a quartermaster-sergeant was seconded to the King's African Rifles in what was then Tanganyika.

Despite long gruelling foot safaris through the bush, he so fell in love with the country and its climate that when his tour of duty had come to an end he left the army rather than return to Britain and instead joined the Tanganyika police. He served in the force for 13 years from 1925 until 1938 when he moved to Entebbe in Uganda. He was awarded the Colonial Police Medal in 1942 and the King's Police Medal in 1950.

One reason why he was reluctant to return to this country in 1925 was perhaps that he had met his future wife, Nell, while in East Africa, where her father was working with the Imperial War Graves Commission. They married in 1926 and seven years ago celebrated their diamond wedding. He is survived by her and by their son and two daughters.

By this time, however, Deegan himself had long moved on. After 18 years in the Ugandan police, the last six of them as commissioner,

interest in that part of Central Asia.

Longmire joined the Foreign Service in 1950 first going to the embassy in Moscow. He was to return there twice more, in 1958 and finally from 1968 to 1971 as First Secretary.

He finished his diplomatic career in the research department of the Foreign Office.

Robert Longmire

ROBERT A. Longmire, the editor of the *Journal of the Royal Society of Asian Affairs* for nearly ten years, has died. He brought to the journal a knowledge, built up over a lifetime, of the affairs of the Soviet Union and a keen in-

terest in that part of Central Asia. Longmire joined the Foreign Service in 1950 first going to the embassy in Moscow. He was to return there twice more, in 1958 and finally from 1968 to 1971 as First Secretary.

He finished his diplomatic career in the research department of the Foreign Office.

FRANCE

Particulars of the Trial and Execution of the Conspirators.

Paris, April 9

The conduct of Chabot, and d'Espagnac, the jobber, is held out here as having belonged to a system of corruption. Their agents consisted of Renoit of Angers, Baron de Baz, the Ex-Constable, Chabot's two brothers-in-law, and Guzman, the Spaniard. Renoit, the em-

ploy of *le Brun* and *Brisot* in England, as represented as having there studied the art of corruption and duplicity.

With this system of corruption was connected the conspiracy of *Fabre d'Églantine*, who had, from his youth upwards, been addicted to theft and yet had, not withstanding, been named to the Presidency of the National Convention of *Danton*, who, a parrot at the commencement, had afterwards been open to corruption, and had finally withdrawn himself from the Committee of Public Safety, the better to conceal the plan of his operations, and of *Camille Desmoulins*, who endeavoured to impede by his *moderation* the vigorous measures which the revolutionary movement required.

As to *Westermann*, he was the agent and accomplice of

Desmoulins continually addressed himself to the people. The courage the latter affected to display was a very painful effort. The head of *Danton* alone was displayed to the spectators, who as usual made the air resound with the cry of *vive la République!*

No spectacle can possibly be more horrid than that of the present state of this capital. The streets every where blocked up by beggars, whose importunities obstruct the passenger at every step he takes. A prodigious number of houses unoccupied, and of shops shut up. Crowds besieging the doors of the bakers' and butchers' shops. Pits filled up with victims who have sought a termination of their miserable existence in the *Place de la Revolution*; and the police continually on foot for the purpose of new arrests which keep every one in dread that the visit may be to him.

PROFESSOR ALAN WILLIAMS

Professor Alan Williams, FRS, biochemist, died from lung cancer at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford, on April 9 aged 46. He was born in Australia on May 25, 1945.



ALAN Williams made three major contributions to his field of interest, the biochemical analysis of the molecules at the leucocyte cell surface. His recognition that the immunoglobulin domain was a biochemical structure whose expression was not confined to molecules involved in immunity led him to suggest the existence of the immunoglobulin superfamily. This prediction has been amply proved with more than 50 proteins on leucocytes being in this family and many others in different tissues.

Second was the characterisation of the first mammalian cell surface protein to be integrated into the membrane by a glycopospholipid anchor rather than through a hydrophobic protein sequence. This result paralleled similar findings in parasites by others.

Finally, when Cesar Milstein and George Kohler published the first paper on monoclonal antibodies, which later earned them the Nobel prize, Williams immediately recognised the potential of immunological tools, both for the identification of novel molecules and for their purification. He published a paper with Cesar Milstein and co-workers which described the characterisation of three new molecules. One of these is the

rat homologue of what became called CD4 in man and which others were to show was the receptor for the AIDS virus.

In recognition of these contributions national and international honours followed. He was made a member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (1984), an honorary member of the American Society of Immunologists (1989), an honorary member of the Scandinavian Society of Immunology (1990) and a fellow of the Royal Society (1990). In addition he received an ad honorem professorship of Immunology from Oxford University (1990). Late in 1991 he accepted an invitation to succeed Professor Henry Harris, FRS, as head of the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, Oxford, and was due to take up his position in October.

Alan Williams obtained his Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree from the University of Melbourne in 1967

and then moved to Adelaide where he worked for his PhD. On the completion of his thesis he and his wife Ros came to Oxford where he became a member of the biochemistry department headed by the late Professor Rodney Porter, FRS. In 1977 Williams was appointed director of the Medical Research Council Cellular Immunology Research Unit in succession to Professor (later Sir) James Gowans and he held this post until his death.

To his colleagues and students Williams was a real enthusiast for biochemical research and he brought many projects to fruition by his drive and energy. It was characteristic of him and an example of remarkable courage that he was actively engaged in the preparation of a major reference book on the biochemistry of molecules at the cell surface until the day before he died. He made no secret of his lung cancer and by facing it openly he made it easier for others to deal with the psychological aspects of his disease.

The standards of scientific excellence that he set produced a cohort of postgraduates who were well founded in the pursuit of scientific knowledge. He showed much concern in their education, knew what care went into the references that he wrote. His own career in science brought him many friends for he was most generous in sharing the proceeds of his talent with others.

He is survived by his wife, Ros and his two children, Ben and Eliza.

GEORGE PAINE

George ("Toby") Paine, CB, DFC, former director of statistics at the Inland Revenue and Registrar General for England and Wales, died on March 2 aged 73. He was born on April 14, 1918.



GEORGE Paine's wide background in economic statistics, his great facility with figures, his general quick-wittedness and a certain combableness in argument were of great value in providing a reliable source of statistical advice as possible to successive chancellors of the exchequer and to the Board of Inland Revenue, where he was director of statistics from 1957 to 1972; he became a familiar figure in the official box in the House of Commons during budget debates.

In the course of his tenure as director of statistics increasingly complicated changes in taxation came under consideration, with correspondingly increasing demands for statistical support. His later years at the Board of Inland Revenue saw the introduction of a capital gains tax and a complete restructuring of the company taxation system. He was made a CB in 1974.

The final stage of Paine's professional career saw him abandoning economic for social statistics when in 1972 he became the first professional statistician to occupy the post of Registrar General for England and Wales and director of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, which had been formed in 1970 by the merger of the General Register Office and the Gov-

ernment Social Survey. He held this post with distinction until his retirement, and was substantially responsible for unifying the two somewhat disparate components into a single department. He was also responsible for the production of the results from the 1971 census of population, and for much of the planning for the 1981 census, which proved to be one of the most successful since the war.

Toby Paine, as he was universally known, came from a farming family in Kent, a background which was to remain important to him throughout his life. He was educated at Bradford College and Peterhouse, Cambridge, where he read mathematics and took a double first. He joined the RAF in 1942, serving as a flight lieutenant with characteristic bravery, and was awarded the DFC in 1944.

His farming interests made it appropriate that when he entered the statisticians class of the Home Civil Service in

1948 it should have been in the Ministry of Agriculture. But only a year later he was transferred to the company statistics post at the Board of Inland Revenue, so entering the field of economic and taxation statistics which was to occupy more than 20 years of his professional life. From 1954 to 1957 he was the company sector statistician at the Central Statistics Office and in 1957 moved to the Board of Trade on promotion to chief statistician.

After only a few months there he moved back to the Board of Inland Revenue to replace Reginald Beales as director of the statistics division, first at chief statistician level and then, from 1966, as under-secretary.

He was a demanding but fair manager who would always give total support to his staff, once their statistical coatings had withstood the keen scrutiny which he gave them.

For most of Paine's professional life his main relaxation had been to return to his family's farm to assist with the hop harvest there, and on his retirement he was happy to indulge once again in this the most enduring of his many interests. He retired to a smallholding in an idyllic spot in Wiltshire and devoted to the cultivation of more than a thousand apple, pear and plum trees and to looking after his beloved bee-hives.

He leaves a widow, Hilary, to whom he was married in 1969, and three children by his wife's first marriage, to whom he was a devoted step-father.

Birthdays

Mr Lindsay Anderson, film and theatre director, 69; Mrs Sirinawo Bandanthalake, former Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, 76; Mr Chris Barber, jazz musician, 62; Mr John Barrett, tennis commentator, 61; Miss Joan Clague, former director of nursing services, Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, 61; Miss Ruth Eichel, former principal, St John's College, Durham, 61; Miss Clare Francis, novelist and former yachtswoman, 46; Mr Anne Harris, former national chairman, National Federation of Women's Institutes, 67; Mr George Key, artist, 91; Mr James East, band leader, 63; Viscount Margesson, 70; Mr Ricardo Parrese, racing driver, 38; Mrs Dora Saint (Miss Reid), writer, 67; Mr Christopher Spott, a vice-chairman, Hambros, 53; Miss Eileen Stammers-Smith, former headmistress, Malvern Girls' College, 63; Mr Michael Vernon, former chairman, Spillers, 63; Vincent Wigglesworth, entomologist, 93; the Right Rev J. Yates, Bishop of Lambeth, 67.

CATHEDRAL: 9.30 Liturgy of the Cross, Responses (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton). 10.30 A Service of Communion, The Lamentation (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton). 11.30 A Service of Communion, The Lamentation (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton). 12.30 A Service of Communion, The Lamentation (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton). 1.30 A Service of Communion, The Lamentation (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton). 2.30 A Service of Communion, The Lamentation (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton). 3.30 A Service of Communion, The Lamentation (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton). 4.30 A Service of Communion, The Lamentation (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton). 5.30 A Service of Communion, The Lamentation (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton). 6.30 A Service of Communion, The Lamentation (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton). 7.30 A Service of Communion, The Lamentation (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton). 8.30 A Service of Communion, The Lamentation (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton). 9.30 A Service of Communion, The Lamentation (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton). 10.30 A Service of Communion, The Lamentation (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton). 11.30 A Service of Communion, The Lamentation (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton). 12.30 A Service of Communion, The Lamentation (Barrow), Lamentation (Milton), Litany (Tallis), Psalm (Tallis), Prayers (Milton), Prayers (Milton).

Church services for Good Friday

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TODAY IN BUSINESS

CROSSED SWORDS



After an unexpected slanging match between the two key figures in Budapest, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is looking for a compromise
Page 21

BOILING POINT

Cecil Duckworth, chairman of Worcester Group, the domestic boiler maker, is recommending an offer from Bosch of Germany
Page 18

PAYOUT WARNING



Ibstock Johnson, the brickmaker, says it will be forced to cut its next dividend unless markets improve
Tempus, page 20

TOMORROW



Colin Southgate, the independent Thom EMI chairman who paid £560 million for the Virgin record label, says he is bossy but not a bully

HOLIDAY ADVICE

As the holiday season starts, Weekend Money advises on being properly insured and making the most of credit cards

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7470 (-0.0148)
German mark 2.9131 (-0.0053)
Exchange index 91.6 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2059.2 (+6.2)
FT-SE 100 2638.6 (-1.6)
New York Dow Jones 3351.74 (-2.02)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17959.76 (+11.75)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/4%
3-month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 9 1/2-9 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.65-3.63%
30-year bonds 100 1/2-100 1/4

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.7479
DM £2.9128
Sfr £2.1896
FF £6.9431
Yen £253.87
Index 91.6
ECU £0.703748 SDR £0.777192
ECU 1.426983 SDR 1.296883
London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$336.80 pm \$336.70
close \$336.45-336.55 (192.50-193.00)
New York:
Comex \$337.05-337.55

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) \$18.85 bbl (\$18.90)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 136.7 March (1987-100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Lloyd's relieved as High Court rules drawdowns can go ahead

Names fail in bid to stop assets seizure

By Jonathan Prynn

A HUGE collective sigh of relief was breathed by the Lloyd's insurance market yesterday with the news that a legal move by 800 names to prevent Lloyd's seizing their assets to pay claims had been blocked in the High Court.

The names, advised by Michael Freeman, a leading Lloyd's lawyer, now stand to lose "tens of millions of pounds" as drawdowns on their deposits begin after Easter. Mr Freeman said yesterday that there was now "nothing we can do to prevent that". However, the names are likely to proceed with a full claim for damages when the drawdowns have been made later in the year.

The judgment against the names by Mr Justice Saville was widely expected but, nevertheless, has been greeted enthusiastically in and around Lime Street. Paul Archard, chairman of the Lloyd's Underwriting Agents Association, said: "If it had gone the other way, it would have been a very, very serious threat to Lloyd's but there was never really a prayer of its succeeding. The judgment is a very clear signal to people buying policies from Lloyd's that they are going to get paid. It is very good news for the policyholders."

David Coleridge, the chairman of Lloyd's, said: "We are naturally delighted with the judgment in Lloyd's and the members' agents' favour. We had every confidence in the outcome from the date proceedings were initiated. Underwriting members of Lloyd's have a legal obligation to keep their agents in funds at all times. The primacy of this principle, 'pay now, sue later', has been upheld and their funds can now be released to meet the cash calls made by their agents."

The judge did not award Lloyd's costs, but has awarded the members' agents costs on standard terms.

probably the most threatening of all the myriad legal actions around the world that Lloyd's is facing. If the case had gone against Lloyd's, the market would have been unable to tap the personal financial resources of names on loss-making syndicates and would have broken the chain of security behind the Lloyd's policy.

However, the judgment leaves many names facing personal financial ruin. One estimate suggested up to 4,000 names would be effectively bankrupted by the drawdowns. Almost 1,000 have already applied to the Lloyd's hardship committee to negotiate a programme of payments of their Lloyd's debts over the rest of their lives.

About 30 of the names involved in the action were in court to hear the judgment. One said the reaction had been "grim", with several of the names facing the loss of their homes when the drawdown procedure begins. One farmer who has lost £800,000 said he would be forced to sell his farm. The text of the judgment will not be available for about two weeks.

The judgment against the Freeman names is likely to trigger at least two new actions by names. The Goodwin Walker Action Group, one of the most aggressive of the 11 active names groups, has pre-

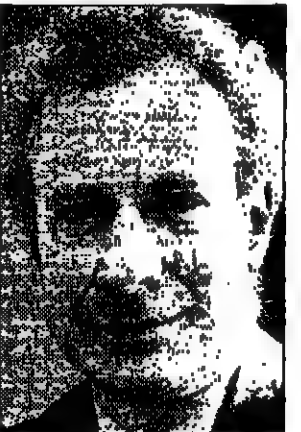
pared an injunction, which it had been holding back while the Freeman action still stood a chance of success.

A new umbrella action group for names facing personal bankruptcy is also to be launched early next week. The Distressed Names LMX Spiral Action Group is provisionally headed by Andrew Grossman, an American lawyer, who is one of the leading players in the legal moves against Lloyd's in New York.

It is a letter to be sent to thousands of names on the hardest hit syndicates. Mr Grossman said the group, which is advised by Withers, the law firm, would attempt to use a legal opinion from Gavin Lightman QC as the basis for an injunction. In the letter, Mr Grossman said it was known that "Mr Freeman's application based on technical objection stood little chance of success." The only realistic possibility of obtaining an injunction, according to Mr Grossman, "is to base a claim either on criminal fraud or dishonesty". Mr Grossman has asked for £300 to join the new group.

Another group of names, those on the 1982 Cutcliffe syndicate, who were left out of the £116 million settlement in February, also lunched closer to the courts this week with a decision to issue a writ before the end of the week. About 300 names, including many who work in the market, have given the go-ahead for a writ although they are still pressing for a solution to their claim that does not involve legal action.

Mr Coleridge is said to be examining proposals that will offer all names who have suffered heavy losses in recent years some relief through a levy on the market. However, he would face resistance from many in the market who believe that names must be made to meet their full responsibilities under their underwriting agreements.



Freeman: defeated

Comment, page 21



Confident of outcome: David Coleridge, the chairman of Lloyd's

National Power wins case

By Martin Waller

THE Office of Electricity Regulation (Ofreg), the power industry watchdog, has ruled National Power is not guilty of abusing its strong position in the electricity generation market by discriminating against London Electricity, one of the regional distributors.

London had alleged it had been effectively shut out of the potentially lucrative electricity contract supply market. Professor Stephen Littlechild, the director general of electricity supply, did, however, request undertakings from National Power and PowerGen, the smaller generator, including one that

they would run their supply offshoots as separately financed companies.

National Power has given the undertakings, aimed at preventing anti-competitive cross-subsidies between its supply and generation businesses. A similar deal is being discussed with PowerGen.

Professor Littlechild said electricity suppliers offering low prices must make comparable offers to all similar customers. "This should discourage a supplier from adopting a predatory pricing policy designed to freeze out competition, without preventing price cutting which re-

flects genuinely lower costs," he said.

National Power said it was happy with the ruling and did not practise discrimination or cross-subsidies. London Electricity said it was satisfied with Professor Littlechild's actions. Clive Myers, marketing and supply director, said: "The undertaking National Power has given will avoid discrimination in the future. We hope PowerGen will enter into a similar understanding."

PowerGen said it could not comment while talks were continuing.

Comment, page 21

Budget deficit soars to record £6.4bn for month

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

THE budget deficit leapt to a record £6.4 billion in March to take the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) for the whole of fiscal 1991-2 to £13.9 billion, slightly more than the Chancellor forecast last month.

Although the March data came as no surprise in the City, it underlined the rapid deterioration in government finances which has become a source of concern in financial markets. For the current fiscal year, Norman Lamont predicts the PSBR will more than double to £28 billion. In 1990-1, there was a net repayment of £500 million.

Excluding privatisation receipts, fiscal 1991-2 showed a PSBR of £21.8 billion, compared with a £4.9 billion budget deficit the previous year.

The previous PSBR record for a single month was £3.9 billion in March 1988.

The record PSBR this March was seen by economists as an alarming forecast of things to come. Last month, central government borrowing was £4.71 billion, against £1.9 billion in February. Local authority borrowing rose to £2.8 billion from £2.08 billion. Privatisation proceeds were £100 million.

Bank of England figures showed banknotes in circulation jumping 5.8 per cent in the week to April 15. The previous week, the annual rise was 1.7 per cent. Simon Briscoe, economist at Midland Montagu, said the timing of Easter last year explained the surge.

The dollar reached new

heights of DM1.6720 in New York, before settling back at DM1.6665, in response to figures showing America's trade gap at its smallest for nearly nine years and lower claims for unemployment benefit. The trade balance was \$3.4 billion in deficit in February, instead of a forecast \$5.2 billion. Exports set a record, while imports fell slightly, but about a third of the improvement in the balance was attributable to notoriously erratic exports of aircraft and parts. The January deficit was \$5.9 billion.

Weekly labour department data on first-time claims for unemployment benefit in the week ending April 4 fell 17,000 from the previous week.

UK factories boost competitiveness

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

BRITAIN'S manufacturers have sharply increased competitiveness, according to figures from the employment department.

The year-on-year growth in output per head during February, at 4.3 per cent, was the highest since the second quarter of 1989. The upsurge helped make the upward trend over the latest quarter, at 2.9 per cent a month, the highest for over two years.

Productivity improvements were underpinned by a further fall in wages and salaries per unit of output. In the three months to mid-February, the annualised rise was 4.5 per cent, the lowest level since the second quarter of 1989.

The improvements were reflected by similar, but more

modest, gains in the competitive position of the economy as a whole.

The rise in unit costs for the whole economy during the final quarter of 1991 was 5.7 per cent. There was a 1.8 per cent rise in productivity during the period.

Employment department figures also showed a fall in the number out of work during March, by 3,010, to 2,707,477. After seasonal adjustment, the rise in unemployment, of 7,400, was the smallest for 23 months.

The disappointment in the latest figures was the absence of a reduction in the rate of increase in average earnings. The year-on-year rise was unchanged at 7.4 per cent.

Jobless figures, page 1

BP's chief treads the boards with skill

By Jon Ashworth



Horton: star turn

THE Barbican Concert Hall has played host to many famous performers in its time. Yesterday, Robert Horton, chairman of British Petroleum and one of Britain's highest paid directors, set out to show that he is up there with the best.

Mr Horton took the stage for an annual meeting on a Hollywood scale. Britain's third-biggest company had seen one of its worst years in recent memory. Profits had plunged 85 per cent in the final quarter of 1991. The share price had fallen heavily and the 1,300 shareholders at the show wanted answers.

Mr Horton, who earned £787,000 last year, launched

into a lengthy speech. "This annual general meeting takes place during one of the longest and most obstinate recessions since the Thirties," he said. "It's a recession which has left nobody unscathed, but some industries have been hit much harder than others. This time, I'm afraid, it's the oil sector's turn to be in the firing line."

Shareholders nodded glumly. This would explain why profits in the final quarter had crumpled from £456 million to £72 million. It would explain why the final dividend had been held, leaving them with a dividend increase barely matching inflation.

Mr Horton took extraordinary pains to explain what had gone wrong. Until Octo-

ber, BP had actually been doing quite well. The weak price of crude had hammered share prices across the oil sector. In Britain, BP had faced a tax bill which was "totally out of step" with its performance.

However, it was not all bad news. There had been a magnificent oil strike in Columbia and three North Sea fields were coming on stream. Fields under development would produce 200,000 barrels a day by 1995.

Not too long ago, rumours of a boardroom split at BP had sent the shares tumbling. Mr Horton wanted to set the record straight: "Times are tough at the moment and I do realise that recent events have been worrying to you. This can't have been helped by

some of the speculation and scaremongering in the press, which has been as wide of the mark as it is possible to be."

He sat down to thunderous applause. The directors braced themselves for hostile questions. Why was there no index in the annual report? Why were there no BP petrol stations in Jamaica? Would the company end up like Olympia & York. That was nasty.

The chairman was asked what he had done to justify his huge salary. Mr Simon was called "a wily old bird" for selling some share options before the price tumbled.

At last it was over, and the audience headed for the bar. Mr Horton and his team looked ready to join them.

Eagle offshoot sale raises £130m

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

EAGLE Star, the troubled insurance subsidiary of BAT Industries, has strengthened its balance sheet with the £130 million sale of Australian Eagle Insurance, its Australian subsidiary.

The group has split the business and sold the life assurance arm to Lend Lease Group, the Australian financial group, and the general insurance to QBE, an established Australian insurer.

Michael Heath, Eagle's marketing director, said the sale was part of a major reorganisation. The group is focusing on its business in Britain and continental Europe. "Australia has been a fair market for us, but not a strategic market, and this was sizeable enough as a disposal to have an impact on the balance sheet," he said.

Australian Eagle earned general insurance premiums of A\$150 million (£66 million) and life premiums of A\$187 million last year, and contributed £5 million to group profits.

Eagle is making a £75 million profit on the sale, which it plans to include in its second-quarter results, and will help to reduce the group's continuing losses. Eagle lost £394 million last year, up from a loss of £128 million in 1990, and is not forecast to return to profit until next year at the earliest.

Mr Heath said no other businesses were earmarked for disposal and that the group had decided to keep its businesses in South Africa and Hong Kong.

Insurance analysts welcomed the disposal because it will strengthen Eagle's reserves. The deal will increase the company's solvency margin, the measure of its claims paying ability, by 7 per cent.

Kevin Phillips, an insurance analyst at Kleinwort Benson, said: "I was concerned that Eagle Star was inadequately capitalised, but now it looks as though it would be the second strongest capitalised insurer in the sector if it was separately quoted." He refused to increase his profit forecast, however, because Eagle Star, like other insurers, will suffer a rush of claims from last Friday's bomb in the City.

BOMBED BY THE IRA!

Suddenly, our need is as desperate as that of the young people we help

Just Ask is a charity which provides counselling and help to young people in London who are unemployed, homeless and on a low income.

Increasingly in today's world we have to deal with their emotional and psychological, as well as practical problems.

On Friday 10th our new headquarters in the City - generously provided for us rent-free by Legal & General - was badly damaged by the IRA. To reinstate our helpline and continue our vital work, we need your help now as never before. Please send a donation to:

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Or call us on 071-628 3380 to make a credit card donation.

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I enclose a cheque I wish to pay by Credit Card

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JUST ASK ADVISORY AND COUNSELLING SERVICE

Just Ask is part of London Central YMCA, a registered charity no. 1001045

Bosch makes an agreed bid for Worcester Group

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

pace of development is hap-

Wired into Europe: Cecil Duckworth, the Worcester Group chairman

speaking for more than 50 per cent of the equity. Worcester's management will continue as significant shareholders in the new group. The senior management holds 38.4 per cent of Worcester and will end up with 32.3 per cent of Robert Bosch Investment, the takeover vehicle, if the bid is accepted in full.

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

The final dividend is raised to 2.7p, against 2.6p last time, giving shareholders an increased total of 4.4p for the year, up from 4.2p previously. There was an extraordinary charge of £1.22 million, relating to costs of the group's withdrawal from some United Kingdom activities.

Earnings climbed to 10p a share, against 9p a share last time. The shares eased 2p to 88p.

HAMMERSON, Britain's third-biggest property company, is in a moment not election sterling.

Burns-Anderson dips

BURNS-ANDERSON, a recruitment and financial services group, made a pre-tax loss of £2.74 million in the year to December 31. That compares with a £1.97 million loss in the previous 15 months. Turnover, affected by disposals, fell to £64.7 million (£98 million). Costs of restructuring, disposals and rationalisation led to exceptional and extraordinary charges totalling £3.97 million. Interest costs were trimmed to £1.71 million, against £2.34 million last time. There is again no dividend.

EXCEPTIONAL had debt provisions of £435,000 held back

Quicks' profit returns

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

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Group aims to sell £250m of its portfolio

LET slides to loss in property slump

By Neil Bennett

LONDON & Edinburgh Trust, the property group, crashed to a loss of £138 million (£35.1 profit) last year owing to the collapse in the value of its property portfolio. The group now plans to sell up to £250 million of its property portfolio over two years to rebalance the portfolio of SPP, its Swedish parent.

The plunge in LET's figures forced SPP, an insurance and pensions group, to inject a further £439 million in new capital and subordinated loans into the company. LET's operations are now being reorganised and it is selling all its overseas investments to SPP LET International, a new subsidiary of SPP in Brussels.

Peter Beckwith, LET's chairman, said the results reflected the severe deteriora-

tion in the property market. "I anticipate 1992 being a year of consolidation but look forward to resuming our normal growth pattern in the years beyond," he said.

Most of LET's loss was caused by a £121 million write-down on the value of its development portfolio, which includes the Bull Ring in Birmingham and a 33 per cent stake in Spitalfields, the former London fruit market.

LET also suffered a 10 per cent fall in the value of its investment portfolio which reduced its reserves by £60.5 million. During the year however the group continued to buy property, and transferred development properties into its investment portfolio.

Overall, the value of LET's investment portfolio rose by 18 per cent to £661 million

during the year, and rental income increased by 38 per cent to £49.8 million, although Nick Sheehan, joint managing director described lettings as "patchy".

Shareholders' funds fell by 40 per cent to £250 million despite SPP's injection of £71 million in new capital. Debts have soared to £735 million (£496 million), including £414 million in subordinated loans from SPP.

Mr Sheehan said that SPP plans to concentrate on its investments in continental Europe and wants to reduce its British exposure. He said the group plans to reduce its British portfolio by a third to around £500 million, or 40 per cent of its worldwide property holdings. "The important thing is that SPP is a long-term investor as a pension fund tends to be," he said.

Mr Sheehan said that LET will also sell its non-property interests which include Owen Owen, the retail chain, financial services and health clubs. All these have been grouped into one company called LET Ventures. "We will sell in due course but the timing fortunately belongs to us," he said.

Mr Lilley, the Glasgow-based building and construction group, has unwound its various joint venture activities with London & Edinburgh Trust in a move that pumps £18.2 million into the Lilley balance sheet, which also benefits from the £3.8 million sale of housing land in north-west England, and the £3.1 million disposal of a stake in New Hong Kong Tunnel.

Details of the various deals accompanied results for the year 1991, which showed a £5 million pre-tax loss after a £12 million exceptional provision relating to a writedown of the group's land bank. In 1990, there was a £14.1 million profit. The final dividend is cut to 1.0p (1.5p), making a total of 2p (2.5p) for the year.

Times, page 20

Dwyer plans share swap to cut gearing

By Jonathan Prynn

DWYER, a London-based property company, that has its shares quoted on the Irish stock exchange, has announced a capital reconstruction.

The aim is to reduce gearing and bring closer the day when the company can pay an ordinary dividend.

The proposals mean holders of the company's convertible preference shares would swap these for ordinary shares on a one-for-one basis.

Payment of dividends on the preference shares has been suspended since last October, after property write-downs eliminated Dwyer's distributable reserves.

The company said the cumulative nature of the dividend was a drain on its resources and "impedes prospects for growth in the future". The removal of the

preference dividend entitlement might enable the company "to resume the payment of dividend earlier than would otherwise be the case".

Dwyer intends to apply to an Irish court for approval to eliminate the deficit on the profit and loss account. In order to restore distributable reserves.

The reorganisation would reduce gearing from 400 per cent to 175 per cent and proforma net assets per share from 120p to 110p.

The company has received support for the proposals from the holders of 35 per cent of the ordinary shares and from 10 per cent of the preference shares.

Dwyer ordinary shares yesterday fell by 8p to 40p; the preference shares rose by 2p to 36p, reaching 44p at one stage.



Expanding despite decline: Michael Thompson, of Friendly Hotels, which has acquired two more sites

Friendly Hotels suffers profit setback

By Martin Walker

THE effects of the Gulf war and the recession in the hotel trade sent pre-tax profits at Friendly Hotels, owner of London's New Connaught Rooms, back to £3.89 million in 1991, against £6.01 million in 1990. It was the first profit setback since 1986.

However, a 3.3p final dividend raises the total from

5p to 5.5p because of signs in recent weeks that the company was approaching an upturn in business. Henry Edwards, the chairman, said. Earnings per share, fully diluted, slumped from 25.3p to 15.5p.

Mr Edwards said: "The early part of the year was adversely affected by the Gulf war and other external factors, and while turnover recovered rapidly for a time,

this improvement was not maintained." Last year, therefore, the effects of the recession could not be overcome, and trading in the early part of this year had remained difficult. Friendly Hotels' market share had, however, been maintained, Mr Edwards said.

Turnover fell 8 per cent to £28.7 million. The group decided last year to concentrate on hotels and sell its

fast service restaurants and nursing home operations, giving rise to an extraordinary profit of £1.95 million.

Michael Thompson, managing director, said Friendly Hotels had bought two freehold sites near Loughborough, Leicestershire, and Cardiff, which would provide two hotels totalling almost 200 rooms to be open next year. The shares rose 6p to 190p.

Fitch-RS implements a design for recovery

By Matthew Bond

FITCH-RS, the design group, moved back into the black in the second half of 1991, after reporting a £680,000 loss at the interim stage. The pre-tax loss for the year was £417,000. In 1990, the company made a profit of £51,000.

Although turnover fell by a fifth to £18.1 million, operating profits doubled to £1.6 million, as the cost-saving programme launched by Martin Beck, who became group chief executive last year, began to take effect. Mr

Beck was formerly the president of Richardson-Smith, Fitch's American subsidiary.

The cost of that programme, some £483,000 of redundancy expenses, have been included in the £1.2 million exceptional item that led to the pre-tax loss. The company has spent more than £1.1 million on carrying forward redundancies in the past two years.

Rodney Fitch, chairman, pointed out that the exceptional charge masked a second half pre-tax profit of £258,000. "At the operating profit level," he said, "I am

satisfied that the company's performance points to the effectiveness of the restructuring and marketing measures we have taken."

The balance of the exceptional item comes from the £699,000 of rent paid on the group's former headquarters in Soho, which has proved difficult to relet since Fitch moved to its new offices in King's Cross.

That building cost £13.6 million to build but its value was written down to £7 million in the 1990 accounts and now stands at around £6.5 million. The borrowings asso-

ciated with the move are still hurting the company, with net interest going from £7,000 receivable in 1990 to £853,000 payable last year.

Reducing net borrowings of £7.5 million and gearing of 260 per cent was the company's top priority, Mr Fitch said. A sale and leaseback deal on the King's Cross building remained the most likely way of achieving that objective.

Mr Fitch said the centre of gravity of the group's business was shifting away from Britain. Overseas markets now accounted for three fifths

of fee income and continental Europe was performing particularly well.

However, the flow of business in the London office had improved in the second half. New projects had been undertaken for Woolworths, Boots, Warner Lambert and BT. "The positive trend in the second half of last year has continued in the first half of this year."

The company's distributable reserves are still exhausted and dividend payments cannot be resumed on either the preference shares or the ordinary shares (1.5p).

KSRC

KUWAIT SHIPBUILDING & REPAIR CO. (S.A.K.)

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To fill-in the fore-said position having following qualification, experience and job responsibilities & capable of managing a yearly turn-over in excess of £20 million.

Qualification: B Sc in Engineering (Mechanical) University with other certificates in cost and management of industrial projects.

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Main responsibilities:-

1. Directs and takes part in selling activities for obtaining contracts of industrial projects. (Oil Production, Refining and Power Generation)
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4. Reports regularly to the managing director on work progress on each project in terms of time and cost targets achieved and of anticipated final completion date, costs and profits.
5. Personally responsible for:-
 - Overhead cost of the department
 - On a project by project basis
6. Ensures that standards applicable to the company are introduced and maintained.

Applicants to submit their CV's with complete information and supported with their credential evidences of their qualification certificates and previous experience within 2 (two) weeks from the date of this advertisement.

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Department of Language and Linguistics

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ANNUAL SALARY RANGES: Medical Senior Lecturer TT\$90,000-109,000; Lecturer TT\$71,232-79,152 (B-69,052); Assistant Lecturer TT\$62,904-66,004. Plus an Institutional Allowance ranging from 10% to 30% of basic salary depending on post. Lecturer TT\$62,904-66,004; Senior Lecturer TT\$71,232-79,152 (B-69,052); Assistant Lecturer TT\$62,904-66,004; Fellow/Associate Lecturer TT\$50,404-54,444; Annual Regional Allowance: Senior Lecturer TT\$7,894; Below Bar TT\$4,300; Passages, Pension, Housing Allowances, Fellow/Associate Lecturer above Bar TT\$7,894; Below Bar TT\$4,300. Passages, Pension, Housing Allowances, Study and Travel and Book Grants. Applications naming three referees and detailing qualifications and experience to the Campus Registrar, University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad, as soon as possible. Further particulars sent to all applicants; these particulars are also available from the Appointments Officer, Association of Commonwealth Universities, 25 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PP, UK.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF INSECT
PHYSIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY
P.O. BOX 30772, NAIROBI, KENYA

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

VACANCY FOR THE POSITION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR AT THE ICIEP
REF: ADM/92/02

The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIEP) is an international institution headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. It undertakes advanced research in insect science and pest management, and offers high-level training to insect scientists and technologists from Africa and other developing countries. It has at any time 44-50 senior scientists and research managers; 24-36 Postdoctoral Research Fellows; 36-45 Ph.D. students; and is funded by a consortium of donors comprising United Nations and international bodies, governmental aid agencies, and private foundations.

Applications are invited from highly qualified scientists and widely experienced research managers for the senior research management position of DEPUTY DIRECTOR at the ICIEP.

The Deputy Director reports directly to the Director of the Centre and, in his absence, acts for him. He has, in addition, overall responsibility for the Research Division of the ICIEP, which includes the research programmes, research support units, the Institutional Building and Interactive Research Unit (IBIRU), and technical support services (including workshops); and maintains close liaison with supportive Divisions within the ICIEP (on Administration and Information and Finance).

The successful candidate will be a person with a solid research background in insect science/pest and vector management/plant protection/animal health; he will have had considerable experience in science policy matters and research management; and he will be a successful internationalist able to work effectively in an African environment. A more detailed job description will be sent to qualified candidates.

The remuneration package will be competitive, and will reflect the vital importance of this position within the ICIEP. Applications, giving detailed curriculum vitae and addresses of three referees should be addressed (in confidence) to:

The Director

The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIEP)

P.O. Box 30772, NAIROBI, Kenya

Phone: NAIROBI 802501/3/9; Fax: 803360; Telex: 22053

Closing date: One month from the date of this advertisement.

UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI

College of Medicine

College of Medicine commenced teaching in 1991. With expansion of the teaching program, and with the increased commitment to return supervision the following positions are available for suitably qualified medical practitioners.

The College has a community oriented teaching programme, and this is an exciting time of development.

1. Department of Medicine

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Medicine

The appointee, who will have a postgraduate degree in Medicine and proven ability in teaching and research, will work within the Department in the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital and also be responsible for some teaching and service within District Hospitals.

Staff Associate in Medicine

(1 post)
This post is available for a recent graduate. The successful applicant will have experience in Medicine and be able, under the direction of the Head of Department to assist in teaching and service duties; in particular the supervision of practical procedures in students and externs. An opportunity will be given for the implementation of a research program.

2. Department of Paediatrics

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics

The appointee, who will have a postgraduate degree in Paediatrics and proven ability in research and teaching, will work within the Department in the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, for teaching, service and research commitments will also extend to District Hospitals.

3. Department of Community Health

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Community Health

The appointee, who will have a proven record of teaching and research in Community Health, and who will have appropriate post graduate degree will work in the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital and the Mangochi District Hospital where the major Community Health Teaching Program is directed.

4. Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

The appointee, who will have a post graduate degree in Obstetrics and Gynaecology will have at least two years experience in a Teaching Hospital and will be able, under the direction of the Head of Department to assist in teaching and service duties; in particular the supervision of practical procedures in students and externs.

Staff Associate in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

(1 post)
This post is available for a recent graduate. The successful applicant will be in the early part of a training program for Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and will be able, under the direction of the Head of Department to assist in teaching and service duties; in particular the supervision of practical procedures in students and externs. An opportunity will be given for the implementation of a research program.

5. Department of Surgery

Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor

The appointee (post held at Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor level). The appointee will have the appropriate postgraduate degree (the particular specialty), and proven ability in the clinical discipline, and also proven ability in teaching and research.

The appointee will work within Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital and also contribute to the teaching and services in District Hospital.

-Orthopaedic Surgeon -1 post
-Urological Surgeon -1 post
-ENT Surgeon -1 post
-Anaesthetist -1 post

6. Department of Psychiatry

Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor in Psychiatry

The post is being established in association with University of Malawi. The appointee will have an appropriate postgraduate degree in Psychiatry, experience in all aspects of mental health in respect of research and teaching and research. The position will be held in the Department of Psychiatry, Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital and the Zomba Mental Hospital and further development of the Community Mental Health program.

For information concerning terms of appointment contact the University Registrar. For information concerning the College of Medicine contact:

Prof G W Dambazira, The Executive Dean, College of Medicine, P/Box 360, CHICHELE, Blantyre 3, Malawi. Fax: 265 674 700

Application close with the University Registrar on 29th May, 1992. 016754

Relief at last for Lloyd's

David Coleridge and his colleagues on the council of Lloyd's of London must be breathing a deep sigh of relief this Easter. So should those names who have any interest in the future of Lloyd's. The 800 who banded together under the banner of solicitor Michael Freeman, to stop Lloyd's calling for money to pay the losses of syndicates whose management is under dispute, feel greatly aggrieved. They feel they were being asked to find money they may not have, to pay liabilities that might eventually not fall on them if systematic malpractice or negligence were found in some of the syndicates involved.

They were, however, playing a dangerous game. The possibility that names might, by extension, withhold cash calls of £200 million needed to cover claims, was a threat to the financial standing of Lloyd's and even more to its reputation as an insurer. Business is already suffering abroad. Lloyd's insistence that names involved should pay now and sue later may not be an edifying principle but it is essential to the integrity of the market.

Amid dreadful losses, Lloyd's underlying business of insurance has taken a back seat in the disputes between the various interest groups involved in the market. All the proposals and arguments over reform would be pointless, however, if the insurance business itself were badly hurt. The most immediate threat now appears to have been lifted. If that proves correct, the next landmark for the names involved in the seven worst excess of loss syndicates will be the inquiry headed by Sir David Walker. He needs to take a tough line on anything that he would consider malpractice in his role as chairman of the Securities and Investments Board. After that, litigation can be put in some perspective and Lloyd's can plan to rebuild confidence for the future by taking the big decisions over the status of names and the implications for the structure of the market.

Power fault

Regulation of utilities has given a perverse twist to what most people think competition is for. Big industrial users will have to pay more for their electricity than they would under free market forces in order to ensure fair competition and free entry to new suppliers. The latest ruling from Ofwat, the electricity supply regulator, is designed to bolster its principle of non-discriminatory pricing. On the face of it, outlawing offers of bulk electricity cheaper to one customer than to similar customers looks sensible. In practice, it stops deals with the likes of ICI at a lower bulk price than a generator's main sales to general distribution companies.

In policing a dispute between National Power, the biggest generator, and London Electricity, a privatised distributor, Ofwat ruled in favour of National Power on the case in point but has insisted on new structures to prevent such disputes arising in future. National Power will have to treat its direct sales to commercial customers as a business separate from generating, that must be free of cross-subsidy. It cannot therefore discriminate in price between sales to its captive supply company and outside supply companies, such as London Electricity. The privatised regime, which separates generation and supply, and will presumably extend that principle to generation by the distributors, therefore removes most of the natural market power of big users, putting them at a disadvantage against many foreign competitors. There is plenty of scope for subtle competition in energy packages tailored to individual customers. For big users, however, competition means higher bulk electricity prices.

Wolfgang Münchau detects a possible compromise in the row over Jacques Attali's plans to help reform east European industry

This week's first annual conference of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Budapest was supposed to be an ordinary working meeting. It turned into a public slanging match between Jacques Attali, the bank's ambitious president, and Nicholas Brady, the US Treasury secretary, who quickly established himself as its most outspoken shareholder.

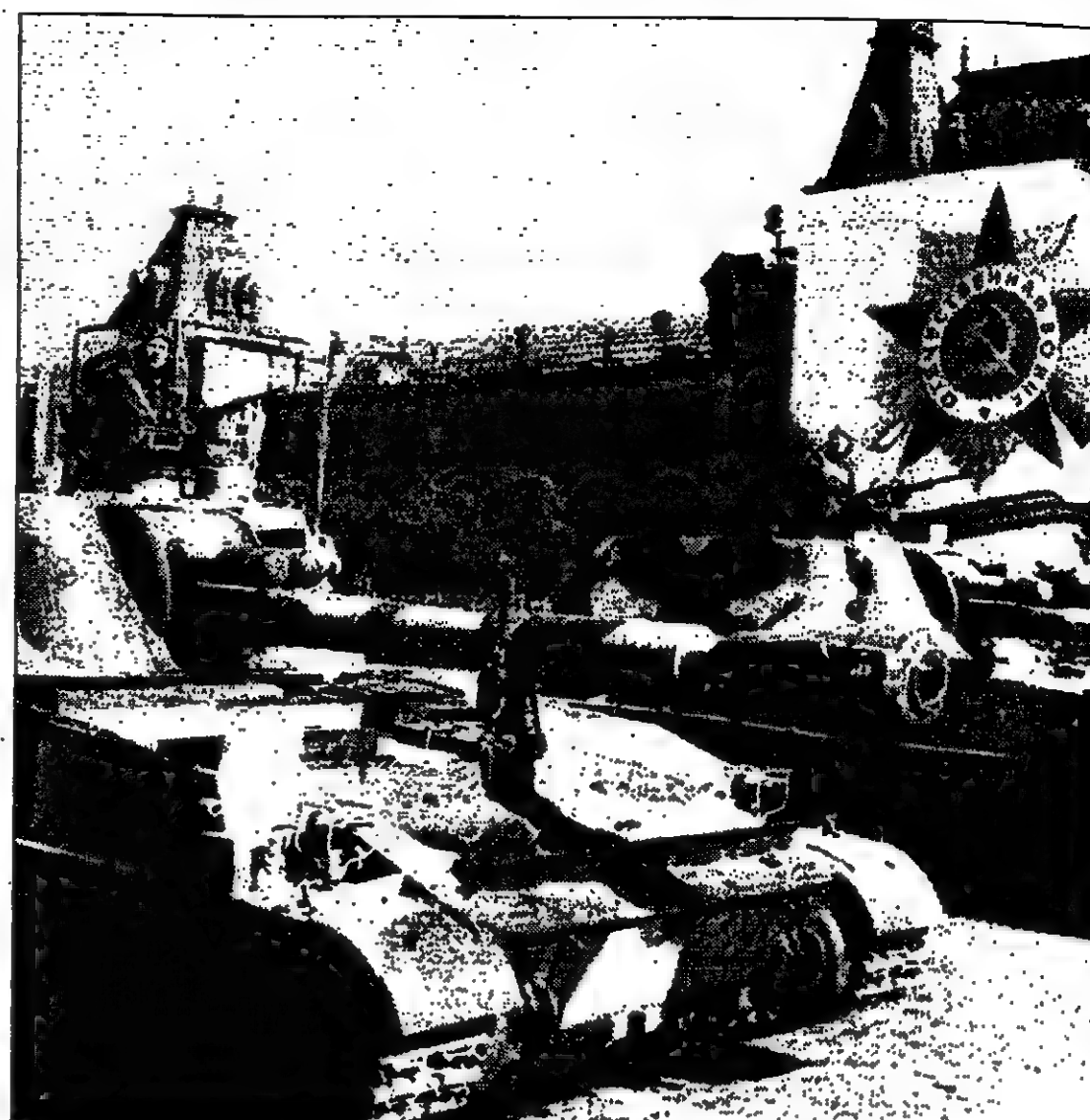
The unexpected public sparring between these two insiders was itself only a shadow of the conversations that went on in private. These were described as frank and fruitful, and anybody familiar with the language of diplomacy would guess what took place at Budapest was nothing less than a blazing row.

The dispute was about a proposal by M Attali to allow the European Bank to widen its responsibilities, by allowing it to grant generous low-interest loans or place high-risk capital into projects that would have no hope of attracting commercial finance. The creation of a Special Restructuring Facility would be a significant departure from present policy, under which the European Bank is allowed to make funds available only on commercial terms. It strikes at the heart of the controversy on economic reform.

Several eastern European privatisation agencies, such as Germany's Treuhand, have already had to face up to this very issue: that many companies and industries cannot be privatised in the short term. The question is whether these industries should be left to perish. The industries in question are steel, shipbuilding, energy and defence manufacturing. Together, they represent a large part of total economic activity. Russia's defence industry alone, for instance, employs 12 million. Some industries, such as power generation, cannot realistically be closed without replacement.

Mr Brady is no friend of such an approach and wants the European Bank to focus on privatisation. His message to the bank was to concentrate on selling assets, because the only hope for successful transition to a market economy lies in the development of a healthy private sector. What is unsaleable simply has to go, and the faster the better. Others, including Britain, have taken a similar view, although not nearly as vociferously.

In the end, M Attali failed to get approval for the facility, but obtained a mandate to investigate its feasibility. On the face of it, this is a typically diplomatic fudge — in case of disagreement, postpone a decision and set up a committee. But M Attali may draw some comfort.



Tanks into tractors: reforming Russia's defence industry could serve the West's strategic aims

There are signs that such a soft finance facility might be allowed after all, if not on anything like the scale he envisaged, and only with some financial ingenuity.

The man who looked like emerging as peacemaker in this row was Theo Waigel, Germany's arch-conservative finance minister. Herr Waigel has this week taken over as chairman of bank's governing board, yet he is an unusual ally to M Attali. Germany may have supported the bank in public, but officials had never really warmed to the idea of a London-based institution, run by a Frenchman with an American deputy. Reforming the East is an area where the Germans regard themselves as the ultimate experts.

Herr Waigel's domestic difficulties might yet play into M Attali's hands. Germany is the largest donor to the CIS countries, but its domestic budgetary constraints make any further unilateral assistance virtually impossible. For Herr Waigel, the European Bank is a way to share the burden. At the same time, Germany has a profound interest in a peaceful political and economic reform in

eastern Europe, more so than anybody else, because its industry stands most to gain from progress in what it considers its own backyard.

Germany also stands to lose most if the reform process falters. Its existing investments would turn sour and the country could be swamped with immigrants, most of German ethnic origin. Herr Waigel's ministry is also in charge of the Treuhand privatisation agency and aware of the limitations and political pitfalls of the fast-track privatisation process Mr Brady proposed in Budapest, in a speech written at a safe distance from eastern Europe and its nuclear power leas.

In Budapest, Herr Waigel outlined the contours of a compromise. He suggested that a restructuring facility could be set up for special and tightly defined purposes, such as the revamping of eastern Europe's dangerous nuclear power stations, 16 of which are considered acutely dangerous. Herr Waigel's stance may not be unconnected with the prospect that a German company, Siemens' power generation arm, could be the largest beneficiary. Germans would also be

among those most at risk from a nuclear accident.

Others may have different priorities. Some would like to see restructuring programmes not for special sectors, but for the poorest countries, such as Albania. Political support for a reconstruction facility would in any case not extend to all the sectors in trouble. These include industries, notably steel and shipbuilding, in which western Europe faces its own difficulties. The conversion or orderly dismantling of Russia's defence industry, and especially some of the tanks-into-tractor schemes, would be most expensive, but could be a desirable western defence objective.

No single international institution can achieve the task of restructuring by itself, even though the word "reconstruction" might form part of its official name. Herr Waigel's point is that some sectors may be worthy of special non-commercial forms of finance, if this was merited on grounds of western interests.

The American administration is not likely to change its mind on this subject but might not be able to block such moves if the others want to go ahead. With 10 per cent of the European Bank's equity, Washing-

ton is the largest shareholder, but the decision to set up a facility would only require a two-thirds majority.

Nor would America necessarily need to contribute to such a facility. Under its founding statute, the European Bank can set up special funds, whose relative contributions do not have to match the shareholdings of its members. Such a fund could be based on a similar capital structure to that of the bank, but on a smaller scale. Some capital would come in the form of government guarantees, some in cash.

On the back of these guarantees, the subsidiary fund could borrow from the money markets, while the size of the subscribed cash element would determine the discount at which loans can be passed on to eastern Europe: the more state cash, the softer the loan. This would be only one of several options, the main point being to ensure that such a facility would not interfere with the bank's main operations.

Even if the European Bank did spawn its own soft finance arm, it would not miraculously solve eastern Europe's reconstruction problems. The countries of eastern Europe will have to carry the main responsibility for restructuring themselves, which means they have to get rid of surplus capacity and tolerate, in the short term, a rise in unemployment.

The chief criticism of M Attali is over his clumsy handling of the affair. America complained it had not been properly consulted before the meeting and had only received a sketchy outline of the proposals. Even a sympathetic Mr Brady would not have been impressed.

The underlying issue of what to do with eastern Europe's 60 Chernobyl-type nuclear reactors has therefore not been resolved.

Much time was devoted at Budapest to the vexed issue of whether restructuring can best be achieved through privatisation, whether restructuring may be a precondition to privatisation, or whether restructuring may be allowed to go ahead even if there are no immediate prospects for privatisation. There is no simple answer to this question either. Most industries are best suited to the privatisation-first approach, but some may not be. That is where the controversy begins.

The inevitable question is whether the European Bank, still in its infancy, is the best institution to deal with this complicated matter. The task of reconstruction may be part of its statutory responsibilities, but there remains the acute danger that the bank's ambitions might turn out to be greater than its capabilities. Promoting the private sector in the infrastructure of industry is alone a gigantic endeavour.

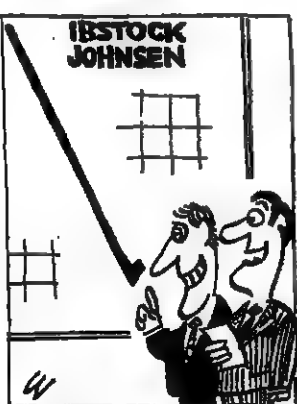
The lack of precedent for the kind of reforms under way in eastern Europe and the stark difference in ideology among western nations, let alone the objects of the bank's attentions, will ensure this week's dispute in Budapest will not be the last.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Sotheby's names its price

IT HAS long been said that Christie's were gentlemen, pretending to be auctioneers, while Sotheby's were auctioneers, pretending to be gentlemen. Now Sotheby's has abandoned any such pretence. Beleaguering Lloyd's names, who dread the post these days, will, by next week, have received a letter from Sotheby's offering to sell works of art on their behalf, so they can meet cash calls. The missive is being criticised as opportunistic, not least because its offer of free valuations plus an advance on estimated sale price is no different to Sotheby's usual terms. In fact the advance offered in this instance, 35 per cent, is, if anything, conservative. According to industry sources, vendors are often paid up to 50 per cent in advance. Sotheby's director Simon Taylor, head of 18th century paintings, says, there has already been a huge response to the letter and names have not been offended. "Of course we weighed up the pros and cons of sending the letter but we thought we could tell names about our services in a sensitive way," he says. Part of that "sensitive" approach is a list of specialist contacts at the bottom of the letter, including Taylor. "We all have direct experience of people who have been through hard times," he says. The shoulder to cry on is, presumably, free of charge.

Casket case
FIND THE right charity and you can travel the world. Julian Cooke, 28, an investment manager at Touche



"Chap bought a brick to put in his cistern."

Remnant has nurtured a secret desire to visit Madagascar ever since his father was posted there 20 years ago with the RAF and brought back a relief map of the island. Now he is taking a month off work to cycle from one end of the island to the other, a total of 1,400 miles. Casket, the bike company, is providing him with a mountain bike and after the deduction of £2,400 in costs, Cooke still hopes to raise more than £5,000 for Money for Madagascar, a charity that endeavours to save rain forests.

Kornered market

IF THE world of headhunting sometimes seems like a merry-go-round, the recent activities of two of the UK's top headhunters, Ed Kelly and Paul Buchanan-Barrow, will do nothing to dispel that impression. First, Buchanan-Barrow, managing director of Goddard Kay Rogers, tried to headhunt Kelly, chief executive of Korn/Ferry International, but was unsuccessful. Then Kelly decided to turn

the tables and go after Buchanan-Barrow. Kelly was victorious and Buchanan-Barrow has joined Korn/Ferry as managing partner. Does that make Kelly the better headhunter of the two? "Let's just say he found the right bait," says Buchanan-Barrow, carefully choosing his words.

Wonder of Woolies

PETER Hardy, one of the key figures behind the 1982 Paternoster buyout of Woolworths, is joining the Kingfisher board as a non-executive director. The appointment coincides with his retirement in June, at the age of 53, as head of Warburg's investment bank. Hardy, who was at that time a leading property broker at Rowe & Pittman, before its 1986 merger with Warburg, was utilised by the Woolworths buyout team because of his property expertise and was one of the few in the City who had faith in the £300 million venture — faith enough to buy shares himself. "It was the deal of the century," he says. "Even if we couldn't turn it round, I knew we'd still have had one of the greatest property portfolios at a fraction of its asset value." With Kingfisher now capitalised at £2.6 billion, his judgment has been vindicated, and his shares — "a couple of thousand pounds worth" — half of which he still holds, are worth 15 times what he paid. Hardy's eye for the property market has made him highly attractive to other long-standing clients — including Land Securities — equally keen to sign him up as a non-executive director.

CAROL LEONARD

IoD opposes 'golden parachutes'

From the Director of Corporate Affairs, Institute of Directors

Sir, In response to the invitation from your correspondent, Mr R. S. Fraser (Business letters, April 15) to set out the IoD's position on termination payments to directors, we entirely agree with his view that failure merits no "golden goodbyes".

Of course directors are entitled to compensation for the balance of their contracts, but this should not mean that poor performance is rewarded with large termination payments.

The key here is acceptance of the principle that no director

should write his own contract. This should be done by a committee of the board, having a majority of non-executive directors, who should ensure that his terms are reasonable. In particular, they should see to it that the length of the contract is not such as to give rise to large claims for compensation in the event of termination.

In this connection, we would regard any contract of more than three years' duration as being excessive.

Yours faithfully,
BLENTH JENKINS,
Director of Corporate Affairs,
Institute of Directors,
116 Pall Mall, SW1.

Cost to UK of a minimum wage policy

From the director-general, Confederation of British Industry

Sir, Wolfgang Münchau writes (Britain bargains too hard for the minimal effect of minimum wage, April 7) "as long as it is intelligently applied, a minimum wage regime does no great harm". If that were true, it would still be a telling argument for not proceeding. But it is not true, as the British Hospitality Association Survey (Letters April 9) has demonstrated.

Comparisons with the United States ignore the fact that in the world's leading economy, minimum wages are set typically closer to £3.40 than £3.40. Comparisons with France fail to consider how effectively the SMIC is applied. Our members' experience indicates that few other countries are as diligent in applying social legislation as we are in this country.

That the direct costs in the UK would be in excess of £2.5 billion is not disputed: much of it would fall on firms highly

exposed to international competition and hard hit by recession, for example in textiles. Few can afford to raise prices or have greater scope for productivity and investment than their international competitors. Our estimate that a loss of 150,000 jobs would flow directly almost certainly understates the likely impact.

Yours faithfully,
SIR JOHN BANHAM,
Director-general, CBI,
Centre Point,
New Oxford Street, WC1.

Election winner

From Mrs V. Blaxter

Sir, Mr Bob Tyrrell, about whom you wrote in your Business Profile for Saturday, January 11, deserves much praise for both his accurate forecast for the date of the election and for the correct result.

Yours faithfully,
V. BLAXTER,
Dens Lodge,
Barcladine,
Oban, Argyll.

Portfolio

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 23).

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

THE TIMES Lives Remembered

Excitement... intrigue... eccentricity... All elements of a fascinating new book, 'Lives Remembered' culled from The Times obituaries columns of 1991. Tyrants rub shoulders with pop stars, royalty with politicians, in an extraordinary parade of the great, the good and the villainous.

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Shares consolidate gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 6. Dealings end April 24. **Settlement day** April 27. **Settlement day** May 5. **Forward bargains** are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992 High Low Company		Price	+	Net	TR
		\$		ch	%
34	5 North Ledge				
200	204 Powercon	200	+ 1	5.5	2.8
10	15 Prospect Inds	15		0.4	3.4
308	345 Foundation Alex	370		19.5	7.2
49	10 RPS Group	26	+ 3	2.0	10.3

[illegible]

29	51	Kearnswood Ws	33	...	2.0	1.0
30	52	Kearnswood (W)	34	...	2.0	1.0
205	180	Reid & Nelson	402	+	6.6	3.9
130	111	Reid	117	...	8.2	1.0
118	100	do-A	107	...	8.2	1.0
41	30	Ross Gp	41	...	...	0.5
178	250	Roth	318	+ 7	10.0	4.2
89	76	Russell (d)	89	...	2.1	3.4
16	16	SE (d)	16	+	0.3	0.4
1268	859	SE (d)	1025	+	9.1	6.1
14	6	Sale (d)	8	...	...	...
147	107	Sanderson Ebor	147	...	8.7	7.0
49	41	Sawney	42	...	...	...
36	29	Savile Gdn (d)	32	...	2.2	9.2

214	194	181	+ 2	1.9
184	198	218	+ 2	0.0
184	198	218	+ 2	0.0
613	689	808	...	2.3
652	699	740	...	0.5
149	98	140	...	8.5
522	367	499	- 1	1.4
77	53	73	...	1.2
68	58	68	+ 3	5.4
30	277	293	...	2.7
710	85	65	...	2.5
128	180	125	...	2.8
779	223	261	+ 1	0.0

673	511	Steve	684	185	43
231	190	Sheninger	231	+	3
280	227	Sheninger	280	+	3
290	267	Sheninger	277	+	3
290	267	Sheninger	271	+	3
32	32	Sheninger	38	+	1
126	180	Sheninger	121	+	1
1073	126	Smith & Neph	160	+	1
9679	825	Smith & Neph	872	-18	13.4
1488	3750	Smith & Neph	3025	-88	2.5
322	254	Smith & Neph	3025	...	10.7
312	32	Smith & Neph	327	...	10.7
310	320	Smith & Neph	315	...	0.6
310	320	Smith & Neph	315	...	10.0

280	231	Spring	280	...	90	4.3
170	131	Spring Kern	168	+ 3	0.2	8.2
116	98	Slip Furniture	105	...	0.5	8.2
30	18	Staircase Metal	27	...	...	...
23	21	Steel Comp	21	...	...	...
163	129	Stensley	182	+ 3	...	...
117	102	Stensley and	100	...	5.6	7.0
141	13	Stewart	13	...	...	...
124	95	Stor	105	...	8.8	11.2
218	160	Swiss Pacer 'A'	216	+ 6	...	3.0
14	15	Synchrome	16	...	...	...
250	235	Synchrome	248	...	90	4.8
135	08	T&N	132	- 1	10.8	11.8

743	521	TI	743	+17	28.5	3.1
743	11	TLS Range*	15	...	...	...
211	167	TT Group	207	...	8.5	1.6
240	190	Telcel	207	+ 2	1.5	1.0
240	190	Telcel Chem	444	...	...	...
42	34	Tex Fibres	37	...	...	...
65	34	TGH	66	...	...	...
99	53	Thermy (2)*	95	...	5.2	12.6
130	85	Thermy	130	...	3.2	3.3
447	110	Towline	484	+10	18.4	2.7
447	110	Towline H	484	+ 4	0.8	17.5
139	100	-do- A	137	...	...	...
450	262	Transit Tech	418	+ 3	15.0	4.3

221	165	Unhappy	216	+1	5.0	3.1
330	230	Unhappy	315	...	...	5.7
34	1	Unhappy	17	...	...	...
94	84	Unhappy	919	-1	18.9	2.7
5967	5375	Unhappy (M)	5612	+50	...	2.9
437	265	VEEL	368	...	22.5	8.2
15	0	Version	0	...	1.0	...
188	134	Victims	166	-1	0.0	4.8
280	253	Vinton	273	+3	0.8	1.3
272	240	Wagon Theory	272	+4	11.1	3.6
70	30	WST Fidge	50	...	2.9	5.7
405	380	Wagon End	405	...	17.0	5.0

256	270	Warner Howard	7	0	2.0
256	178	Warrick	240	3.2	1.0
34	24	Watford Walsop	0	0	0.0
533	435	Wat	531	1 + 4	10.5 2.0
1174	942	Wellcome	1123	- 5	10.0 1.2
35	30	Wellman	34	...	2.2 8.6
25	20	Welap	25	...	...
430	415	Wharton	428	...	87 2.7
278	280	Whitcomb	274	+ 2	...
34	17	Whitney	22	...	2.0 1.1
109	77	Whitney	109	+ 1	...
12	10	Whitney	10	...	12.2
18	10	Whitney	18	...	...

	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980
379	240	Williams (Ep)	345	-2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
440	368	Williams (Hd)	467	+3	12.1	3.0	...	...	...	...	...
133	125	Wood (Antenn)	125	...	4.1	4.4	...	...	...	...	...
223	136	Worms	218	+30	4.2	2.6	...	...	...	...	...
60	40	Wyko	58	...	2.8	6.7	...	...	...	...	...
61	48	Young (H)	51	+1	6.0	15.7	...	...	...	...	...

INSURANCE

1281	1025	Allen & Allen	1087	+25	...	5.2
2540	2230	Ann Conn	2412	+18	...	4.7
16	136	Archway (AI)	137	+1	4.7	14.0
861	762	Armstrong	865	+30	29.5	5.0
503	402	Carb Union	448	...	23.0	7.0
31	34	FBI	27	-1	...	...
485	381	Gen Accident	439	+2	26.7	8.1
145	108	GRE	142	...	7.9	0.2
477	347	Health 'E	375	+1	...	0.6
208	165	Hong Co	175	+1	...	6.4
128	105	JIB Group	125	+1	...	5.3
108	95	Liberty	105	+3	14.5	5.5

949	607	Larry Lee	075	+3	10.3	6.3
432	343	Lyley Abbley	190	+7	17.3	5.0
258	211	Lloyd Thomas	228	+	...	2.0
201	215	Lunda & Man	254	-1	13.3	7.0
354	282	Lowndes Limb	317	+	...	4.3
1450	4037	Marsh McLen	4250	+90	...	1.8
154	116	Orid	119	+	5.0	5.0
81	47	PWS	54	+2	4.0	9.9
256	190	Protestant	256	+	...	3.7
670	504	Reckse	504	-28	20.2	2.7
232	148	Reid	201	+	2.2	2.2
234	187	Sedmore	231	+	12.0	6.9
121	29	Steele Burrell	251	+7	13.3	6.9

232	137	Savage Hedges	191	+ 7	10.5	14.6
100	217	Sent Alliance	277	+ 3	64.2	6.6
97	30	Trade Indemnity	45			
372	305	Int Friendship	371	+24	12.3	4.5
274	224	Watts Corroon	250	+ 6	13.2	6.8
19	15	Whitaker				

INVESTMENT TRUSTS						
1984	1299	Alliance	1384	+ 6	63.0	4.1
100	166	Arner Trust	189	+ 1	4.8	3.4

Portfolio
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1992		Company	Price \$4	Net -/-	Yld sh	Yld %	Pr
High	Low						
52.25	50.25	Southwestern	52.25	-	210	5.00	
50.75	4.35	Shell	47.2				
4	2	Exxon	11				
16	11	Texas	11				
82	38	Trans. Lamps	81			14.88	
172	142	Worship	157				
34	2	AOL Service	24				

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING					
158	103	API	152	-	4-45
19	-10	ATA Selection	12	-	11111
276	520	Amo Magazine	255	-14	4-14
400	368	Abbott Med	361	-	5-3
3	1	Acme Group	10	-	14
14	-	97 Address	97	-2	58
128	97	Acme Group	10	-	44
172	105	Acme Corp	114	+1	5-3
12	10	BBS Group	10	-	-

100	85	B&B Res	58		4.0	
225	180	Benham	225	117	10	
40	38	Berkshire	50			
105	80	Burl	104		5.1	
163	147	Burl	154		3.2	
46	41	Cal Corp	43		8.0	
40	4	Chas L Hays	7		4.4	
72	31	Chlorophane	33		0.0	
34	2	Cluson Lodge	2			
174	148	Cropper Union	165	24	2.3	18
41	34	Cropper Union	37		8.2	88
121	105	Dan Polson	37		4.4	44
121	125	Dan Polson	135	2	4.4	44
86	80	Dan Polson	81		6.6	34

110	101	Euro Factor	101	1	4.3	5.7	3
12	56	Classic	10		0.6	7	3
67	56	Raymond J. Thompson	50		3.1	2.0	12
20	21	Raymond J. Thompson	236	+	12.5	7.4	14
30	25	Flinders					
10	25	Jack RS	62				
26	60	William Lyman	60		0.0	13.3	9
22	193	Gold J. Greenwood	295		8.3	9.4	8
18	40	Southland	40		0.8		
4	110	Humcorps	110				
4	2	JMD Group	2				
24	55	Lopes	40				
44	254	Mine O'Ferrall	227		12.2	7.5	11
27	254	Mine O'Ferrall	227		12.2	13.1	9

117	63	NYC	103	0.0	117	
118	74	NYC	103	0.3	77	0
148	142	Chalmers & Little	148	0.3	48	0
200	230	St James	278	-15	0.4	24
17	12	St James	17	+	0.1	2
43	1	St. Louis	1	2.0	149	0
40	57	Shannon	40	1.7	58	0
200	200	Shannon	200	0.5	43	1
670	200	Sumner	670	0.2	10	0
172	152	Union	174	0.0	53	0
50	45	Union	50	0.4	94	0
115	38	WTT	115	0.5	1	0

186	196	Wane	18	+	8.2	8.3	8
193	193	Waddington (H)	18	+	7.4	5.8	11
425	391	Wadsworth	425	+	16.9	13.27	11
1	1	Waggoner	1	+	11.1	11.1	11
30	27	Waggoner, Mack	30	+	2.0	2.0	2
75	74	Wald (Silo)	75	+	11.1	0.2	11

PROPERTY

70	2	Abner Group	71	+	3.5	4.8	11
50	53	Alford Co	52	+	3.5	4.8	11

70	86	Archangel	83		
73	86	Aula	87	20	4.7
24461	2180	BILCO	2280	+2	
70	86	BILCO 1st Floor	84		
467	400	BILCO	428		
45	30	Broadway Blvd	31	18.0	8.8
153	34	Broadway	34	10	4.4
76	24	Broadway	24	3.7	1.3
275	161	Br Land	162		
186	149	Burton	150		
82	47	Burton	46		
231	147	Cap & Channing	148		
125	108	Cap & Regent	111	100	8.1
				9	0.8

430	190	Union Park	119	24	18	20
437	230	Luxemburg	30	18.5	8.7	
439	200	Union Park	119	24	18	20
440	21	Charles Nadeau	11	0.7	4.8	20
442	14	Clayton	18			
445	185	Dorcas	255	24.0	1.7	13.1
447	14	Dorcas Estate	24	0.2		
76	36	Dickinson Town	49	6.0		10.1
0	3	De Morgan				
135	111	Dorcas	118	8.3	0.4	
240	335	Lawrence Hilder	241	8.0	3.1	8.0
240	200	Lawrence Hilder	230	7.3	4.2	
240	85	Barnes & Coy	12	3.7	2.2	
		Lawrence Hilder	12	0.2		

28	35	100	Emilio C. Lopez	94	+	...	4.4 4.4
28	35	100	Frank P. Pula	94	+	...	4.4 4.4
28	35	100	James C. Knap	94	+	...	4.4 4.4
32	39	269	Frederick	260	+	1.3	6.6 2.6
125	100	100	Guinness	104	+	9.3	6.7 2.0
126	189	51	Joe Portland	151	+	...	6.8 1.1
114	52	3	Clyde Cox	37	+	5.2	1.7 7.7
87	63	1	Mark Lane	74	+	...	6.9 3.4
45	29	1	Hank C. Meyer	44	+	0.0	0.3 2.3
503	323	1	James H. ...	368	+	...	7.4 2.3
503	323	1	John A. ...	368	+	...	8.0 1.3
17	17	77	William Chester	111	+	...	4.6 4.9
180	75	1	Richard Burr	111	+	...	4.6 4.9

[illegible]

1075	90S	Midwest Power	925	15.0	2.3	8.4
112		Midwest Power	8			
151	119	Midwest Power	127	5.0	0.4	15.4
31	33	New Commonwealth	41			
30	21	Cheney Inc.	19	6.2		1.8
103	78	Power Corp.	78			
111	80	Pep Security	89	0.7		4.3
150	44	Properties Trust	47			21.0
68	20	Rockwell	13	+		3.9
104		Rockwell				
170	133	Southwest Sec	135	1.3	1.2	12.9

40	14	St Michael Prep	20	+	0.5	3.7	11.7
40	24	Seville	30	...	...	...	...
72	50	Soot Mts	3.3	...	...	11.4	32.8
62	46	Stanhope	48	...	...	...	...
5	4	St Paul	49	...	...	...	...
26	30	St Peter's Walden	30	...	2.0	...	...
248	18	St Joseph's	178	+	2	5.8	8.7
151	51	St John's Prep	50	...	...	...	...
17	3	St Joseph's	3	...	...	...	...
17	12	Stanhope Prep	35	...	...	...	...
83	74	Town Centre	34	...	...	3.1	15.0
61	44	Trinidad Park	32	-	1	2.5	6.6
40	40	Trevian Hills	43	...	...	1.0	3.0

[illegible]

9	74	Alkali	29			
73	33	Alkali Ties		12.3	4.3	9
73	36	Backbone (A)	80	4.7	9.6	11.9
73	34	Backbone (B)	82			10.0
73	35	Bulkline (C)	82			11.4
73	36	Bulkline (D)	82	8.5	7.3	11.4
73	37	Bulkline (E)	82			
73	38	Bulkline (F)	82			
73	39	Bulkline (G)	82			
73	40	Bulkline (H)	82			
73	41	Bulkline (I)	82			
73	42	Bulkline (J)	82			
73	43	Bulkline (K)	82			
73	44	Bulkline (L)	82			
73	45	Bulkline (M)	82			
73	46	Bulkline (N)	82			
73	47	Bulkline (O)	82			
73	48	Bulkline (P)	82			
73	49	Bulkline (Q)	82			
73	50	Bulkline (R)	82			
73	51	Bulkline (S)	82			
73	52	Bulkline (T)	82			
73	53	Bulkline (U)	82			
73	54	Bulkline (V)	82			
73	55	Bulkline (W)	82			
73	56	Bulkline (X)	82			
73	57	Bulkline (Y)	82			
73	58	Bulkline (Z)	82			
73	59	Bulkline (AA)	82			
73	60	Bulkline (AB)	82			
73	61	Bulkline (AC)	82			
73	62	Bulkline (AD)	82			
73	63	Bulkline (AE)	82			
73	64	Bulkline (AF)	82			
73	65	Bulkline (AG)	82			
73	66	Bulkline (AH)	82			
73	67	Bulkline (AI)	82			
73	68	Bulkline (AJ)	82			
73	69	Bulkline (AK)	82			
73	70	Bulkline (AL)	82			
73	71	Bulkline (AM)	82			
73	72	Bulkline (AN)	82			
73	73	Bulkline (AO)	82			
73	74	Bulkline (AP)	82			
73	75	Bulkline (AQ)	82			
73	76	Bulkline (AR)	82			
73	77	Bulkline (AS)	82			
73	78	Bulkline (AT)	82			
73	79	Bulkline (AU)	82			
73	80	Bulkline (AV)	82			
73	81	Bulkline (AW)	82			
73	82	Bulkline (AX)	82			
73	83	Bulkline (AY)	82			
73	84	Bulkline (AZ)	82			
73	85	Bulkline (BA)	82			
73	86	Bulkline (BB)	82			
73	87	Bulkline (BC)	82			
73	88	Bulkline (BD)	82			
73	89	Bulkline (BE)	82			
73	90	Bulkline (BF)	82			
73	91	Bulkline (BG)	82			
73	92	Bulkline (BH)	82			
73	93	Bulkline (BI)	82			
73	94	Bulkline (BJ)	82			
73	95	Bulkline (BK)	82			
73	96	Bulkline (BL)	82			
73	97	Bulkline (BM)	82			
73	98	Bulkline (BN)	82			
73	99	Bulkline (BO)	82			
73	100	Bulkline (BP)	82			
73	101	Bulkline (BQ)	82			
73	102	Bulkline (BR)	82			
73						

741	23	Chemicals	...	0.7	37	21.3
742	98	Chlorinated Gas	241	+3	46	...
743	605	Commercial Term	514	13.0	34	11.4
744	140	Dawson	208	4.0	57	24.9
747	31	Deutsche	40	...	5.0	...
748	71	Diamond	71	...	4.4	7.4
749	31	Dynalene	36	...	0.5	12...
752	122	Eastcoast	124	...	0.5	12...
757	9	Hickory Propan	103	+3	23	10.3
760	38	Jermco's	41	...	2.6	...
761	335	Lamont	350	+1	12.0	14.0
767	304	Leeds	378	...	9.7	34.0
768	24	Mear-	29	...	0.1	0.5

		CYRUS	79	...	2.5	6.2	11.2
77	78	REINOLD	78	...	2.5	...	...
77	74	REINOLD	75	...	4	6	11.6
90	80	SEET	87	- 7	...	...	...
94	80	NORD	82	...	5.1	1.4	13.5
58	80	STANTON	80	...	1.5	6.7	12.0
34	46	SHOEN	48	...	2.5	6.0	17.3
28	25.5	TORRENT	27h	+ 8	11.5	5.6	20.9
77	20.1	TORRENT	4	...	0.2	8.3	11.2
77	20.1	YORK	22h	...	9.7	5.9	8.5

TOBACCO

48	808	BAT	748	+9		60 37.3
48	803	Richmond 'B'	1143	+4	18.5	20 13.1
TRANSPORT						
288	302	Amec Br Ports	368	+4	6.0	27 32.5
290	531	BAA	682	+3	3.0	29 20.3
296	210	Br Airways	282	+3	18.0	4.2
182	126	Clarkson P L	136	+2	2.0	4.2
182	126	James Newman	94	+1		
182	126	Laurens Lee	376	+6		
14	4	Laurens Lee	376	+6		
14	70	Huber	70	+1	5.0	10 11.5

192	78	Grays	-	84	40	112
193	106	Lays	191	+	40	234
194	24	Jaegers (J)	194	+	19	46
195	18	"	12	+	70	14
196	1337	Mendocino Sh	1307	+	45	54
223	140	Merry Docks	217	+	37	56
226	220	NFC	262	+	37	56
257	249	Coastal Group	342	+	23	51
259	249	Johns Wilson	50	+	7.3	44
261	375	Pd 1st	488	+	8.3	154
302	267	Pd 2nd	101	+	7.3	44
303	312	Powerful Whales	312	+	22.9	97
101	16	Sandwich	16	+	4.2	98
102	15	Sandwich	15	+	4.2	98

57	81	TIP Europe	54	7	1		
87	52	TNT	82 ¹	1		3	10
55	53	Tobacco & Stem	55	1		10.8	2
117	295	Tripulse	51	6	3	13.4	5.2
178	242	Transport Doc	275	1		9.5	4.6
40	65	Thermal Scott	68				17.3

WATER							
123	336	North American	114	-2	175	54	85
220	336	North American	431				
225	323	North West	422		186	57	85
268	268	South West	479	-3	175	57	75

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	2959	2960	2961	2962	2963	2964	2965	2966	2967	2968	2969	2970	2971	2972	2973	2974	2975	2976	2977	2978	2979	2980	2981	2982	2983	2984	2985	2986	2987	2988	2989	2990	2991	2992	2993	2994	2995	2996	2997	2998	2999	3000
1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					

Year	United States (%)	Mexico (%)
1960	35	25
1965	45	30
1970	55	35
1975	65	45
1980	75	55
1985	80	60
1990	85	65

The Times county-by-county guide by Peter Ball

DERBYSHIRE

1991: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 3rd (WS L5 D8). Refuge Assurance League: 15th (WS L11). Benson and Hedges Cup: Failed to qualify for quarter-finals. NatWest Trophy: First round.

1992 staff: C J Adams, K J Barnett (captain), S J Base, I R Bishop, P D Bowler, A M Brown, D G Cork, S C Goldsmith, F A Griffith, M J Jacques, K M Krikken, B J M Maher, D E Malcolm, J E Morris, O Mortensen, T J O'Gorman, A Richardson, P E Russell, R W Stoddin, T A Twest, A E Warner, P Whitaker, Newcomers: Bishop (Trinidad, West Indies), Richardson, Twest, Whitaker. Departures: M Ashrauddin (India), Foley, E McCray, B Roberts, Z A Sedq.

THIRD place in the championship last year might even have surprised Derbyshire themselves. Expectations are high as a result, but Ashrauddin's 2,000 runs will take some replacing, putting a lot of pressure on Morris to take responsibility and play some big innings, and Adams and O'Gorman

to develop from bit players into major supporting roles behind Barnett. Unusually though, for the county where they used to whistle down the mineshaft for the next in an endless supply of strong, durable seam bowlers, there is a question about the pace attack. After his year's lay-off, Bishop has returned, but his fitness for the long slog has to be proved, and Malcolm broke down again in the West Indies after one impressive performance on the A tour, while Mortensen is approaching the stage where thought needs to replace speed and aggression. Player to watch: Dominic Cork. Second seasons tend to be testing ones, but if Derbyshire's senior seam-bowlers fail to last the pace, there will be a lot depending on last year's outstanding discovery.

DURHAM

1991: NatWest Trophy: First round.

1992 staff: P Bainbridge, P J Berry, D A Blenkinsop, I T Bohan, M R Brice, G R Brown, S J E Brown, J A Daley, A R Fothergill, J D Glendenen, D A Graveney (captain), P W Henderson, S E Hughes, S Hutton, D M Jones, W Larkins, S M McEwan, P W G Parker, C W Scott, I Smith, G Wigham, J Wood. Newcomers: Berry (York), Bohan (Worce), Hughes (Middle), Jones (Victoria, Australia), Larkins (Northants), McEwan (Worce), Parker (Sussex), Scott (Notts), Smith (Gloucester).

FOR good or ill, Ian Botham's towering presence will dominate the first new county for 71 years, and if he is inspired by the challenge they could surprise one or two teams along the way. Geoff Cook has recruited a powerful batting line-up, and one to score its runs quickly, too, with the two local players, Glendenen and Blenkinsop, no slouches

in that department. On their day, Larkins, Parker, and Botham should make them as attractive as any side in the competition. Bowling, on the slow Durham wickets, is another matter. The fast bowler, John Wood, may have his moments away from home, but Simon Hughes will probably get all the work he wants, and more, and David Graveney, sometimes reluctant to use his slow left-armers when captaining Gloucestershire, will not be able to afford such reticence in the North East. Player to watch: Darren Blenkinsop. Well organised, and with an impressive temperament, a member of the England under-19 touring team last winter, he should be the first of Durham's batch of promising young players to make his mark.

ESSEX

1991: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 1st (WS L5 D8). Refuge Assurance League: 6th (WS L4 T1 N/R4). Benson and Hedges Cup: Semi-final. NatWest Trophy: Quarter-finals.

1992 staff: S J W Andrews, D J Boden, K A Butler, J H Childs, D M Cousins, N A Foster, A G J Fraser, M A Gurnham, G A Gooch (captain), N Hussain, M C Lott, N V Knight, J B Lewis, W Lovell, P J Pritchard, D R Pringle, A C Richards, R J Rolfe, D J Robinson, Nadeem Shahid, J P Stephenson, P M Such, L Tennant, T D Tooley, M E Waugh. Newcomers: Cousins, Robinson, Tennant (Leics), Waugh (NSW, Australia). Departures: Salim Malik (Pakistan), D E East (retired), C A Miller, A C Seymour (Worce), G Ecclestone.

LAST year's champions are expected to be there or thereabouts again. But it is tempting to wonder whether Neil Foster, who is likely to captain the side often, can repeat his heroics of last season, and whether the spinners will continue to

prove so effective. Not makes a welcome return, after the back injury that threatened his career, to augment further the seam bowling department which is already strengthened by Stephenson's sudden emergence, and his admirers believe the off spinner, Such, can develop further. The return of Mark Waugh means that the old formula of fast-scoring batsmen to give the bowlers time and large targets to bowl at is unchanged. Nasser Hussain could score a lot of runs, the left-hander, Nick Knight, made a huge impression last year and Nadeem Shahid should fulfil the promise of two years ago. Player to watch: John Stephenson. An established batsman about to become an invaluable all-rounder?

GLoucestershire

1991: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 13th (WS L5 D12). Refuge Assurance League: 18th (WS L10 N/R2). Benson and Hedges Cup: Failed to qualify for quarter-finals. NatWest Trophy: Quarter-finals.

1992 staff: S R Barwick, S Basdin, A R Butler (captain), P A Cotter, C S Cowdrey, R D B Croft, A Dale, D J Foster, M Frost, D L Hamp, S P James, S Kinnon, P Mearns, C P Meisner, J Morris, V A Richards, A D Shaw, S L Walcott. Newcomers: Cowdrey (Kent), Departures: G C Holmes (retired), S J Dennis (retired), M J Ginn, I Smith (Durham), M Davies (Glouce), J Deniro, M L Roberts, R J Sossini (India).

VIV Richards, after missing last summer on tour with West Indies, returns and Chris Cowdrey arrives to give a powerful batting line-up. Richards has not played first-class cricket since that tour but his class should overcome this. They should get plenty of runs, and with Maynard and Richards, could get them quickly.

With Cowdrey concentrating, although not exclusively, on one-day cricket, they could do well in the NatWest Trophy or, with a bit of luck with the weather in the early stages, the Benson and Hedges Cup.

The bowling, though, will determine how good a season they have. Watkin had a dreadful A-team tour of the Caribbean, but is a good bowler in English — and with conditions and a few more promising, Croft is probably the pick of young English spinners at the moment, and so they will be quite happy with slow turners to play on.

Player to watch: Robert Croft. Full of confidence, he had an impressive season last year, a good winter, and should establish himself as the next England off spinner.

1991: Britannic Assurance County Championship: 13th (WS L10 D7). Refuge Assurance League: 19th (WS L9 N/R2). Benson and Hedges Cup: Failed to qualify for quarter-finals. NatWest Trophy: 2nd round.

1992 staff: M W Alleyne, C W J Athey, A M Babinington, M C J Ball, M Davies, R J Davidson, J M De la Penne, M J Gernard, T H Hancock, S G Hinks, G D Hodgson, R J Hogg, A J Hunt, D V Lawrence, R C Russell, J R Scott, A M Smith, J T O'Vaughan, C A Walsh, R C Williams, R C J Williams, M G N Windward, A J Wright (captain). Newcomers: Davies (Gloucester), Hinks (Kent), Davidson, Hogg, Lawrence, Windward, Walsh (Leics, West Indies). Departures: J E Hardy (retired), J W Lloyd, S N Barnes, E T Maltum, D R Gilbert (Australia).

COURTNEY Walsh, one of the most wholehearted overseas fast bowlers of all returns, but without David Lawrence he faces an even heavier workload than before, even if Justin Vaughan turns up trumps. Thereafter,

the bowling is thin, unless the off spinner, Mervyn Ball, can pick up from his promising display as the end of season. Hinks arrives from Kent to give the fragile batting line-up a little more depth, but a lot will still depend on Athey and Wright, who contributed seven of Gloucestershire's 11 first-class centuries last season. Unless some of the young players make a breakthrough, the county is proclaimed as so promising before he returned to his vineyard come through, a season of struggle looks unavoidable.

Player to watch: Justin Vaughan. English-born left-hand batsman and medium-pace bowler who impressed for both Auckland in the domestic competition and the young New Zealand team last winter.

1991 Britannic Assurance County Championship

Team	P	W	D	L	SR	PS
Essex	22	11	5	6	59	512
Derbyshire	22	11	4	7	58	529
Nottinghamshire	22	9	5	8	46	525
Notts	22	6	10	6	48	545
Surrey	22	8	6	8	47	561
Warwickshire	22	6	3	13	30	539
Worcestershire	22	6	12	5	34	533
Lancashire	22	6	7	9	40	505
Hampshire	22	5	7	10	37	519
Northants	22	6	11	5	54	585
Sussex	22	4	3	14	30	518
Gloucester	22	5	12	5	37	517
Glouce	22	5	10	7	38	518
Yorkshire	22	4	12	6	37	529
Middlesex	22	3	9	10	48	538
Leics	22	3	11	8	33	547
Somerset	22	2	5	15	36	542

1991 Refuge Assurance Sunday League

Team	P	W	L	TNR	PS
Notts	10	13	3	0	1
Lancashire	10	13	3	0	1
Northants	10	10	4	0	2
Warwickshire	10	8	4	1	3
Essex	10	7	4	1	3
Yorkshire	10	7	4	1	3
Surrey	10	7	4	0	2
Somerset	10	7	4	0	2
Gloucester	10	6	5	0	1
Glouce	10	6	5	0	1
Sussex	10	6	5	0	1
Leics	10	6	5	0	1
Gloucester	10	4	10	0	2
Hampshire	10	3	12	0	1

REFUGES ASSURANCE CUP: Semi-final: Lancashire vs Nottinghamshire by 4 wickets. Worcester vs Nottinghamshire by 14 runs. Final: Worcester vs Nottinghamshire by 14 runs. Final: Worcester vs Nottinghamshire by 14 runs.

NATWEST TROPHY: Semi-final: Surrey vs Nottinghamshire by 7 runs. Northants vs Warwickshire by 9 wickets. Final: Hampshire vs Surrey by 4 wickets.

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Semi-final: Lancashire vs Yorkshire by 6 runs. Final: Worcester vs Lancashire by 6 runs.

1992: BRITANNIC ASSURANCE County Championship: Champions, £25,000; runners-up, £25,000; third place, £10,000; fourth, £5,000; fifth, £2,500; sixth, £2,500; seventh, £2,500; eighth, £2,500; ninth, £2,500; tenth, £2,500; eleventh, £2,500; twelfth, £2,500; thirteenth, £2,500; fourteenth, £2,500; fifteenth, £2,500; sixteenth, £2,500; seventeenth, £2,500; eighteenth, £2,500; nineteenth, £2,500; twentieth, £2,500; twenty-first, £2,500; twenty-second, £2,500; twenty-third, £2,500; twenty-fourth, £2,500; twenty-fifth, £2,500; twenty-sixth, £2,500; twenty-seventh, £2,500; twenty-eighth, £2,500; twenty-ninth, £2,500; thirtieth, £2,500; thirty-first, £2,500; thirty-second, £2,500; thirty-third, £2,500; thirty-fourth, £2,500; thirty-fifth, £2,500; thirty-sixth, £2,500; thirty-seventh, £2,500; thirty-eighth, £2,500; thirty-ninth, £2,500; fortieth, £2,500; forty-first, £2,500; forty-second, £2,500; forty-third, £2,500; forty-fourth, £2,500; forty-fifth, £2,500; forty-sixth, £2,500; forty-seventh, £2,500; 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Year	Japan	Germany	Italy	France	Canada	Sweden	United States
1950	12	10	8	7	6	5	4
1960	15	12	10	9	8	7	5
1970	18	15	12	11	10	9	6
1980	22	18	15	14	12	11	7
1990	25	20	18	17	14	13	8
2000	27	22	20	19	16	15	9
2010	28	23	21	20	17	16	10
2020	28	23	21	20	17	16	11
2030	28	23	21	20	17	16	12
2040	28	23	21	20	17	16	12
2050	28	23	21	20	17	16	12

The word last season was that their bating was not the stuff of champions. With Reeve having an outstanding year in the middle order, it proved good enough for most of the year, but the doubts remain.

Player to watch: Alistair Brown. A big scorer in the 2nd XI last season, he has been nursed carefully. If he gets in, he might take a lot of shifting.

Player to watch: Martin Speight. A batsman of rich promise, who made a significant impact in the second half of last season.

Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, will race in pairs at Cologne Regatta in two weeks' time (Mike Roswell writes).

The Scaries, Jonathon and Greg, who beat the world champions in a six-crew pairs trial race on Tuesday, intend to race in coxed and coxless boats but Redgrave and Pinsent are likely to remain in the coxless variety, and there is no certainty that there will be another direct confrontation.

Mark Lees, the international performance director, said yesterday that he did not see Redgrave and Pinsent's de-

not fully race it," but was clearly delighted with the performance of the Scaries.

Although the Official announcement of the full Cologne team is still awaited, it seems likely that Lees will use his other best performers, the third- to sixth-placed pairs last Tuesday of Martin Cross and Tim Foster, Pete Mullerkins and Nick Burtin, Terry Dillon and Neil Davis, and Simon Bernfield and Jim Walker, in an eight.

Remarkably, even below these leading boats, the likely coxed and coxless fours are all rowers with international experience.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

30 uncles outside

Barclays League

Second division

Cambridge Utd v Portsmouth.....

Third division

Sheff Wed v Darlington (12.0).....

Walsley v Shrewsbury.....

CLASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES

League: Tannets Road: Trophy:

Walsley v Walsley.....

League: Walsley: Ladies League: Southern

Division: Farnham v Haverhill.....

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier divi-

League: Chappenhams v Bristol Manor

Farm: 1st: 10.00 v Ottery St Mary, Empsham v

Walsley, Liskeard Athletic v Saltash,

Salisbury v Walsley, Thevorn v Minehead,

Walsley v Bodmin.....

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division:

Grimsby v Tow Law, Newcastle Blue Star

Walsley v Grimsby, Poole v Newbottom v

Walsley Red Star, West Auckland v

Whitdon.....

RUGBY LEAGUE

TOWNES BRIT CHAMPIONSHIP:

First division: Bradford v Spenning (7.30),

Walsley v Walsley (7.30), Hull KR v

UJ (11.35), Leeds v Halifax (7.30), St

Helens v Walsley (7.30), Walsley v

Walsley (7.30), Walsley v Walsley (7.30),

Walsley v Walsley (7.30), Walsley v Walsley

(7.30), London Crusaders v Wokington,

Walsley v Oldham (7.30).....

Dewsbury v Keighley (11.15), Huddersfield

vs Hunslet (7.30), Scarborough Pirates v

Barrow (7.30).....

CRICKET

11.30 to 6.30

FENNER'S: Cambridge University

v Middlesex.....

THE PARKS: Oxford University v

Worcestershire.....

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: European championships:

individual semi-finals (Glasgow)

CYCLING: Welwyn Whalers Half, 31

mi (Welwyn Garden City, Barn), Great

Yarford 10 mi (Epsom, 3.30pm),

High Wycombe 10 mi (Kewstall Hill,

Tam)

HOCKEY: ADWA Six nations inter-

national: girls' Easter tour: Under-

Under-18 (at Carmarck) Hurl, Under-18 (at

Cardiff) v New Zealand Medical, Bristol

SPEEDWAY: Homfray League, First

division: Anne Eyles v Cradley Heath

D.0. Gold Cup: King's division: Belle Vue

v Wolverhampton (7.30), Ipswich v King's

Lyth (11.00), King's v Lyth (11.00),

Parade v Reading (7.45), Second division:

Edinburgh v Barrow (15.15), Peter-

borough v Ray House (7.30), Sheffield v

Middeburgh (7.45), Easter Trophy:

Walsley v Walsley (7.30), Walsley v

Second div. Swindon v Oxford (7.45)

SWIMMING: British grand prix: superfinal

(Edinburgh)

Best criticises maul experiment as an inducement to cheat

approved the board's ambition to speed up the game and make it more attractive by increasing the points scoring. "We are particularly pleased they have reduced a number of penalties to free kicks, although we also believe that in time it might be useful to reduce all penalties to free kicks, other than for foul play and offside," he said.

Etheridge, aged 26, who made his name with Gloucester, had earlier indicated his availability for the Irish Exiles for next season's inter-provincial championship, on the basis of his Irish father.

□ David Sole, Scotland's captain, will lead the World XV in the first of their three meetings with New Zealand in Christchurch tomorrow. He takes over the position after the withdrawal of Nick Farr-Jones, Australia's World Cup-winning captain, who damaged an ankle in Sydney on Wednesday.

Jeremy Guscott, England's centre, forms an exciting partnership with Tim Horan and Sole's fellow Scots, Gavin Hastings, Andy Hastings and Peter Horne, all players in the British Isles.

NEW ZEALAND: G Cooper (All Blacks), J Kruwin (Auckland), W Little (North Harbour), P Burns (North Harbour), V Jones (South Islands), G Bishop (Canterbury), R McDowell (Auckland), S Fitzpatrick (Auckland, captain), M Tait (Otago), D White (Southern), I Jones (North Auckland), M Cullen (Wellington), A Hogg (Auckland), R Turner (North Harbour).

WORLD XV: S Hastings (Scotland) M Williams (Ireland), P Horne (England), J Guscott (England), P Hendricks (South Africa), D White (New Zealand), J G. Sole (England), P Kerris (Australia), P Fostatele (France), M Coillon (France), O Roumer (France), G MacKinnon (Canada), D White



Brown recalled that Hitler "did watch the finals and behaved quite properly over the presentation of medals".

HAVANT and Hounslow seek new fortune in the European Cup. In the next four days, Havant in the European club championship at Amstelveen, and Hounslow in the Cup Winners Cup at Vught. The format for both competitions is the same, the winners of each pool qualifying for the final.

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ment Slough can expect strong opposition from the two top clubs, HGC and Amsterdam, in pool A. Glasgow Western are in pool B along with Eintracht Frankfurt, Club de Campo, from Madrid, and Stadefrancis, from Paris.

Hounslow have a good chance of finishing on top of pool B in the Cup Winners' Cup. Their opponents are SPV Ulsteas, of Spain, Cork (Harlequins) and White Star, from Belgium.

Sturton Coldfield will carry England's banner in the women's Cup Winners' Cup. They are in pool B along with San Sebastian, of Spain, Old Alexandra, from Ireland, and Club Raffelburg, from Germany.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Butcher injured
Alan Butcher, the Glamorgan captain and opening batsman, has been ruled out of the county's opening Sunday League match against Warwickshire at Edgbaston this weekend because he is recovering from a calf injury.

Start for Seymour
Adam Seymour, an opening batsman, will make his first appearance for Worcestershire in the three-day match with Oxford University, which starts at The Parks today.

o: Redcliffe Borough 4, Worsnop 1;
 Gutsley 5, Rhyl 2.
NEVILLE OWDEN COMBINATION:
 Fulham 1, Luton 3; Oxford Utd 0, Ipswich
 0; Swindon 3, Chelsea 0; Walsford 4,
 Crystal Palace 1; Tottenham 3, Wimbledon
 3.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First
 division: Barnet 1, Sheffield Wed 1;
 2nd div. 2, Sheffield Utd 4; Leeds 2,
 Manchester City 1; Newcastle 3, Bolton 1.
 Positioned: Sunderland v Liverpool.
 Second division: Oldham 1, Blackpool 0;
 Scunthorpe 2, Grimsby 0; Wolverhampton
 5, Huddersfield 0.
NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division:
 Gussborough 2, Birmmham Synthona 2.

FRIDAY APRIL 17 1992

Try worth five points to encourage attack

Board brings in new laws to speed up game

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE International Rugby Football Board (IRFB), having held its breath on law changes for the last four years, released it with a gusty sigh yesterday. Though the wording of the laws themselves has yet to be made known, a wide-ranging series of changes has been agreed with the intention of speeding up the game and removing what the board describes as "irritating stoppages".

The supremacy of the try over the goal-kick has been emphasised by changing its value from four to five points — the first change in values since 1971, when the try increased from three to four. Thus a converted try will be worth seven points, the negative side of which is that teams may feel able to risk conceding two penalty kicks (worth six points) without being overtake.

However the value of the dropped goal, so historic a feature of rugby, remains intact at three points; the life of the "drop kick", too, is enhanced by its adoption as the way to restart after a score, although, in the sixth comprehensive review of the laws since the last century and the fourth since the second world war, players will be barred from dropping at goal following a free kick.

The IRFB, at the end of its annual meeting in Wellington, ran the gamut of business from amateurism to tours, but the greatest weight concerned the laws and the debate between the two hemispheres: the north, concerned with traditional aspects of the

THE PRINCIPAL CHANGES

- Try to be worth five points — no other change in values but a team awarded a free kick may not score a dropped goal until the ball next becomes dead.
- After a tackle, any other player (not involved in the tackle) must be on his feet when he plays the ball.
- In general play, offside players may not advance towards a player waiting to play the ball until they have been put on side.
- It will be illegal to intentionally hit an opponent off his feet or force him upwards at a scrum.
- Five-metre scrums to be awarded opposite the place where the ball becomes dead and not where it crosses the goal-line.
- The scrum half may not take any action to suggest the ball has left the scrum.
- A player running back to his 22 to kick to touch will gain no ground from the kick.
- A free kick finding touch on the full (from outside the 22) will gain no ground.
- When a penalty kick goes directly to touch the same team will throw in.
- A quick kick may be taken by a team at either a penalty or free kick without waiting for players of the other team to retire behind the ball, provided they do not become involved in play.
- A player retrieving a ball from touch himself may take a quick

game, against the south, keen to offer an effective counter to rugby league.

In fact, the two may not be so far apart, since so much of rugby union's play hinges on interpretation. For example, the suggestion that the first player to reach a tackle must be on his feet when he plays the ball merely repeats a law which was applied so firmly by Jim Fleming, the Scottish referee, in the opening match of the World Cup.

"I would hope the changes would produce a more attractive spectacle, to give greater stimulus to pass the ball and run with it, rather than kick it," Roger Vanderfield, the board chairman, said. Certainly the laws may reduce set-piece play and encourage teams to become more creative, if they have the will to implement them positively.

Southern-hemisphere countries can introduce the changes as soon they wish, but Australia and Scotland already have an agreement that existing laws apply to the Scottish tour in May; the same will apply to Ireland in New Zealand, who aim to

introduce the new laws on June 7. The Rugby Football Union has indicated its desire that the present laws apply to their B tour in New Zealand in June and July.

The question of eligibility for international matches remains unresolved, and will probably arise at the interim council meeting in November.

Among professionalised players reinstated as amateurs is Terry Holmes, the former Wales and British Isles scrum half, who signed league forms for Bradford Northern. Other reinstated are — England: D. K. Hill, S. D. Wilson, M. Chester; Scotland: D. M. Rose; Wales: M. Price, D. Watkins, E. V. Watkins, P. Bennett; Australia: C. Roche, A. D'Arcy. The gap between the last receipt of material benefit and reinstatement has been reduced from five to three years.

Two more countries, Bermuda and Lithuania, have been admitted to membership of the IRFB, but no further details will emerge of the 1995 World Cup in South Africa before the tournament organising committee has met the South African Rugby Football Union.

□ South Africa, confirmed this week as hosts of the 1995 World Cup, are to withdraw from their proposed tour of Romania and Italy in June, after criticism that they should concentrate first on a development programme for the black township.

Their return to international rugby will now be against New Zealand on August 15.

More rugby, page 27



Lord of the ring: Graham Gooch unleashes another commanding shot through the covers during his fine 75 for Essex against England A at Lord's yesterday. Photograph: Alistair Grant. Report, page 26

County game's traditions will disappear under reforms

BY PETER BALL

COUNTY cricket is facing its biggest change since the introduction of the one-day game 30 years ago. The three-day match, the basis of English first-class cricket this century, will virtually disappear next season if the Murray committee proposals are accepted by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) meeting on May 19.

The committee, which was set up in September under the chairmanship of Mike Murray to review the structure of the first-class game, has proposed radical restructuring of both the county championship and the one-day competitions. Only the NatWest Trophy survives untouched.

The Murray committee is the third, following the Clark Report and, three years ago, the Palmer committee to assemble a package of major changes. The two others failed to gain a majority, but Murray, the chairman of Middlesex and the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) finance committee, secured an air of quiet confidence yesterday.

"The Palmer committee made no attempt to explain the rationale behind the report to the counties, they just prepared and presented it,

and that's why it didn't succeed," Murray said. "I'm optimistic."

This time, his committee has carried on extensive consultations. Suggestions yesterday were that there will be wide support. Lancashire, who were traditionally opponents, are supportive, and there were indications that Yorkshire will also fall into line.

Chris Hassell, the Yorkshire chief executive, said: "Our committee has always been opposed to a four-day championship but we may have to come to terms with the tide of current opinion. My initial view about the proposals which were made public today, is they have a lot of commendable aspects."

"I also don't think the fears of some counties about the proposed new structure will be substantiated."

If the recommendations are accepted, the county championship will consist of 17 four-day matches, all beginning on Thursday.

Teams will alternate between nine and eight home fixtures. The alternative view of retaining three-day games but uncovering the pitches was considered but rejected because of the priority given to Test cricket in the committee's deliberations.

"The working party took

- County championship to consist of 17 four-day games.
- Benson and Hedges Cup to consist only of knockout matches, no group matches.
- Sunday League to become 80 overs a side, starting at 12 noon. Coloured clothing may be worn.
- The season will start and end later.

the view that Tests will never be played on uncovered pitches, and thought that England players would be playing with one hand behind their back if they went into Tests with inadequate practice in the conditions," Murray said.

That is bound to provoke some heated response from traditionalists, while the loss of cricket, with potentially serious consequences for their membership, will worry some counties, particularly those like Essex and Yorkshire who play a lot of cricket on out grounds.

The five-day structure of a four-day game, with the Sunday League matches played in conjunction with championship games giving a five-day run at one venue, will go some way to answering criticism, however, and the reduction in travelling is an undoubted benefit.

The changes will enable the season to start later, with an early concentration on the

championship. That is also attractive, but the financial implications of the proposed reforms will concern the counties, although they are difficult to quantify.

Estimates of the effect of the changes to the championship range from a loss of £139,000 at one county on a worst case example to a profit of £76,000 at another county in the best case.

In all, with the changes to the one-day competitions also taken into account, counties are expected to lose around £20,000 to £25,000, a figure which the marketing arm believes will be quickly made up.

The changes to the one-day competitions are generally likely to prove less contentious. The format of the Benson and Hedges Cup will be altered, with the group matches abandoned in favour of a straight knockout competition.

A bigger change comes in the Sunday League, the *bête noire* of the purists but staff of life for the impecunious counties.

The committee recommends that the games should increase from 40 to 50 overs a side, starting at 12, and finishing at 7pm, with a forty minute interval at 3.10pm.

County guide, page 24-5
England A draw, page 26

Counties in the driving seat

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

FOR the next month, English cricket will stand at the crossroads like a dithering motorist. The counties have been presented with a new and exciting direction, a by-pass to the wearisome congestion their game has increasingly suffered. Will they take the streamlined route, or settle for the safety of the familiar road?

A working party, under Mike Murray, was set up amid general scorn. Why, it was asked, should it have any more success against reactionary tendencies than several similar committees in the past? Already, it has provided some compelling answers by approaching its task assiduously, consulting broadly, and adopting a refreshing openness.

If the proposals unveiled yesterday were not thought remarkable, it is because they are the very reforms for which players, coaches, media, umpires — indeed, almost everyone involved in the game — have been clamouring for some years. The dissenters, almost to a man, have been the committee men who now, of course, have the decisive voice.

Previous attempts to introduce a four-day championship and to improve the cricketing appeal of the Sunday League and Benson and Hedges Cup have met with objections put ostensibly on financial grounds but, in many cases, founded on parochial prejudices and a fear of the unknown.

Of course, there will be certain sacrifices to be made for the general good. Now, surely, they must be seen as worthwhile, because the framework for the 1994 season, which the working party has created, is more attractive for players and spectators than the confused mess of recent years.

Championship games would be played only once a week, and always on the same days. Sundays would contain a proper one-day game and Tuesdays would belong to knockout cricket.

The season would begin later, with more chance of civilised weather and none of the frustrating frustration of zonal one-day cricket, and would proceed in an organised, planned way. The championship would be authentic, at last, each side playing the others once. The players would have so much travelling and Test players would play a higher proportion of games.

It all makes so much sense that I am filled with a perverse dread of the decision which will be announced on May 19. This time, it seems, the clubs cannot turn their backs on reform... but do not risk a bet on it.

A Lesson with Leadbetter competition

Win a weekend for two in Orlando, Florida and receive personal one-to-one instruction from David Leadbetter. Fifty videos will be given away as runners-up prizes.

Watch out for question four in The Times on Saturday.

Question 1: Which of David's pupils does he refer to as 'my best advertisement'?

Question 2: In which year did Leadbetter's famous Scottish pupil win the coveted 'Green Jacket'?

Question 3: Which Australian did Leadbetter help to win the 120th Open Championship?



Available at all good video stockists.

Barcelona reach for main prize

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

THERE will be new champions in each of Europe's three football club competitions next month. None of the six teams disputing the finals has won its respective trophy before, although Barcelona, Sampdoria's opponents in the European Cup final at Wembley on May 20, have finished runners-up on two occasions.

They also defeated Sampdoria 2-0 in the 1989 Cup Winners' Cup final in Bern, but unlike their rivals for the Spanish League, Real Madrid, the six-time European champions, it has never been Barcelona's privilege to win the main event.

Sampdoria, who have reached the final at the first attempt, return to the scene of their 1990 pre-season Makina Trophy success. Should they win again it will be the third triumph in four years for Italian clubs, AC Milan having done so in 1989 and 1990.

Theoretically the final should provide a fascinating contrast, Barcelona's adventurous approach against Sampdoria's slightly more cautious style, but if last year's final between Red Star Belgrade and Marseilles was an

example of an anticipation best forgotten in reality, nobody will be expecting too much this time.

Between them the clubs have reached the Cup Winners' Cup final in each of the last three seasons. Both teams were favourites to advance from their semi-final groups, instigated for the first time this season and the subject of so much criticism.

The groups went down to the last games, with Barcelona needing to beat Benfica to ensure their place and Sampdoria requiring at least a point at home to Panathinaikos. Barcelona duly won 2-1 but at Wembley they will be without Amor in midfield after a second booking.

Sampdoria scraped a 1-1 draw against the Greeks, who thus failed to win any of their six games, but led this time after 26 minutes. The Italians levelled through Mancini but would still have qualified had they lost as Red Star lost 3-2 at Anderlecht.

In the Cup Winners' Cup, Monaco's 2-2 draw against Feyenoord in Rotterdam secured their place in the final on away goals after a 1-1 first-leg draw. They meet Werder Bremen in Lisbon on May 6, the first European final for both clubs, the first in this

competition for a French club, and only the sixth in all for French clubs in Europe. None of the previous five has succeeded, not even Marseilles in spite of all the millions of francs spent in the attempt by Bernard Tapie, their president.

Tapie, incidentally, who is also the French urban affairs minister, and Marseilles, are one of nine French clubs under investigation by the fraud squad. The justice ministry has reopened inquiries into alleged embezzlement involving transfer fees.

Bremen, trailing 1-0 to Club Brugge, beat the Belgians 2-0 in the return, with Manfred Bockenfeld's sixth-minute goal decisive. The defender was later carried off after a collision with the Bruges goalkeeper, Danny Verlinden, but doctors told him that he had only bruised his shin that was feared to be broken.

Bockenfeld is expected to be available for the final but Oliver Reck will not be so lucky. Bremen's goalkeeper, booked in the second half, incurred his second yellow card of the competition.

The game, like the first leg, was soured by crowd trouble, which left a German, aged 38, in critical condition yes-

terday after being hit in the chest by a signal rocket during the first half.

Three Belgians were arrested in connection with the shooting and a signal flare gun in their possession was confiscated. Altogether, police arrested 12 Belgians and nine Germans for rowdy behaviour.

Ajax Amsterdam, who have won everything except the UEFA Cup, reached the final of that competition despite being held 1-1 at home by Genoa, whose failure, 4-3 on aggregate, prevented a third successive all-Italian final. Torino, who beat Real Madrid 2-0 for a 3-2 aggregate win, will face Ajax in the two-leg final on April 29 and May 13.

□ The Belgian coach, Paul van Himst, has called an uncapped forward, Gunther Hofmans, into his 16-man squad for next week's World Cup qualifier against Cyprus. Hofmans, who plays for Ekeren, could replace the injured Luc Nilis, of Anderlecht.

□ Joel Bats, the French team's goalkeeper during its successful years of the 1980s, is retiring at the end of the season although he will continue as a coach for Paris Saint-Germain.

Sella confused by tour omission

BY CHRIS THAU

THE casual manner of the announcement that the senior French backs, Jean-Baptiste Lafont, Franck Mesnel and Philippe Sella, the captain during the five nations' championship, were going to miss the tour to Argentina indicated a degree of consensus by all concerned; players, coaches and managers. Not so, according to Sella.

"I have not been consulted and I don't understand the decision," he said.

Pierre Berbizier, the coach of the team, explained: "I spoke to Sella, Mesnel and Lafont and asked them to take a break from the game. I think they are worn out and I believe they need a rest in order to regenerate."

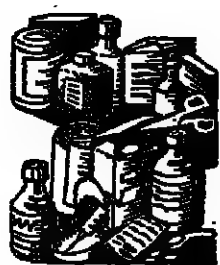
"I want to take to Argentina a group of young players to blood them for future competitions. We are all aware that we need a new side by 1995 and if we don't start to bring youngsters in somewhere we will be caught unprepared by the World Cup. I've told the three that I count on them for the Springbok series in the autumn," Berbizier said.

Sella, though, believes there is a more sinister motive behind the move. "There is a strong similarity between the way Camberabero and Lagisquet got the push and the way we are treated," Sella said.

"I'm not tired at all. The only person who could say whether I need a rest or not is myself. Besides, when you go on tour with a young side you need an old wise head around. The captain is part of the team and if you want to develop the side you need a captain as well, don't you?"

"And, what is going to happen to the captain who is taking France to Argentina when they come back? Are they going to drop him?"

The author of the plan to use the tour to Argentina to launch a new generation for the 1995 World Cup is Robert Paparemborde, a big influence in the French federation. However, while the idea to bring new talent into the ranks is commendable, the painful truth is that there is not a centre of Sella's quality in French rugby.



HEALTH
What women
can expect
with hormone
replacement

LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY APRIL 17 1992

MOTING

An old
favourite?
No: built
in India



Count
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seat

CRICKET

FOR the
first time
in the
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the
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A woman
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"I have learnt to conduct worship in small groups. You cannot sing the psalms. You do not attempt the *Te Deum*": Canon David Woodward at All Saints Church in Stoke Ash, Suffolk, one of four medieval churches in his benefice

Today, in a small medieval church in north Suffolk, Canon David Woodward will close his eyes and lead a handful of supplicants in contemplation of Jesus's suffering and death on the cross. Their thoughts will not be entirely somber. The paradox of the Good Friday message, according to Christian belief, is that the death of Christ opened the gates of everlasting life to mankind.

This consoling thought is helpful to Christians throughout the church. But in particular it helps the clergy, to some of whom every Sunday can seem like a living Good Friday, and who wonder if and when the Church of England will be resurrected from its century-long decline.

In some parishes, the resurrection will come this Sunday in more ways than one. Every year, Easter Sunday, along with the harvest festival and Christmas, sees a doubling and even tripling of congregations.

Clergy have also been encouraged by the most recent church attendance figures, which showed that the decline seems to have bottomed out, somewhat to the surprise of the church's own statisticians. According to the figures from Church House, the administrative headquarters, 1.155 million people attended Anglican services each Sunday in 1989, 24 per 1,000 of the population and the same proportion of the population as the previous two years. The figure in 1970, however, was 1.542 million, or 33 per 1,000.

Canon Woodward, aged 56 and a country parson for 20 years, has been in his present benefice since 1989. Rural dean of Harismere, his living takes in four churches for six villages, including Thorndon, Rishangles, Stoke Ash, Thwaite and Wetheringsett. Populations vary between 80 and 600, and church attendance between ten and twenty.

Canon Woodward, a traditional evangelical who recently celebrated his 25th anniversary in holy orders, was depressed at first by small congregations. "I have never had enormous numbers come into my church," he says. "I have learnt the hard way that you cannot attempt to be a cathedral when you are a small parish church. I have learnt to conduct worship in small groups. You cannot sing the psalms. You do not attempt the *Te Deum*. You adjust the prayer book, you do not go woodenly through it."

"There are times when I go out on a winter's morning and face six people. I rush to the next church and face ten. Then I begin to wonder what it is all about. I have been angry and frustrated, but my faith has never been tested. I have always believed that God is there. It is just that I am not as conscious of Him on some days."

Like most country parsons, he lives on a perpetual financial knife-edge. "All the churches need money spending on them. People are pretty positive about that, even though there is not much money about. We seem to find it somehow. We are getting a new organ at

Stoke Ash, a bit of a miracle considering most of the floor beneath it had gone. With the floor, it is costing £3,800."

He remains optimistic. "I believe that God called me to this type of ministry. I speak with hope about the rural church. I am not despondent about it, even though it makes me angry sometimes."

"I find that the institution of the church is very wobbly in places. You cannot get people to sit on parochial church councils, become church wardens. Trying to get people onto the deanery synod is the nadir of anyone's experience. They cannot see the relevance of it. But talk to them about prayer, Bible study, faith and even meditation, and they warm to that."

He expects about 100 people in church this Sunday. "There is a residual faith and I do not knock that. But I am obviously frustrated that I do not see them at other times. When I am visiting them, I try to work on what is there rather than condemn what is not."

The Church of England is organised through a system of parish boundaries which was firmly established by the early medieval period, when every member of the population of 2.5 million was in close contact with the church and parish priest.

The end of the last century and the beginning of this are often seen as the golden age of the rural church. But as the Archbishops of Canterbury and York's report *Faith in the Countryside* points out, it was during this period that the general perception of rural ministry as being the church's second elev-

The rise in church congregations over Easter can do wonders for the morale of the rural clergy, Ruth Gledhill reports

en, a backwater suitable for the less energetic and able, began to establish itself.

In 1899 Archbishop Randall Davidson blamed the bicycle for having a particularly deleterious effect on church attendance, and the first world war brought further changes to social conventions. In numerical terms, the church has never recovered. From the turn of the century the number of clergy began to decline from its peak of more than 25,000 in 1901. Each rural deanery has lost one clergyman every 15 years this century.

In the 1920s, the policy of providing a clergyman for every parish was abandoned. By 1931 the number of Anglican clergy had fallen by more than 6,000. Today there are about 10,500 clergy nationwide, and rural clergy can find themselves ministering to more than six parishes each, with no curate or secretarial help.

The Rev Michael Braithwaite, aged 57, has three churches in the Butterners Valley in the Lake District. He does not fit the traditional picture of a country parson. He came to the ministry 18 years ago after a diverse career which took in time as a hill shepherd, dairy herdsman and eight years spent among South American Indians.

Today he will lead a three-hour pilgrimage to churches in

Butterners, Loweswater and Lorton through some of the most stunning scenery in England. He expects to collect about 45 churchgoers en route.

More than 80 people attend his combined Sunday services, with numbers often swelled by visitors. From a total population of about 500, this means an attendance rate better than in most towns.

"At Easter we get 150 and we are completely packed out at Christmas," he says. "If you feel you are one with the congregation and are getting a response, size need not be of the essence. There is no need to be put off by a small congregation. It is great when we get 150 and raise the roof."

He is careful not to criticise those who turn out only for the festivals. "Thank goodness they come," he says. "I do not get frustrated about that. I know farmers are looking after stock and coming to church is difficult."

Canon Humphrey York, aged 63, has two parishes, Amory and Shevock, in Cornwall. He says about a dozen people go to church in the former, and up to 50 in the latter. "I have been in the ministry in the country for 30 years," he says. "One of the first things you learn is patience. You do not get results in five minutes."

In the smaller parish, which has an aging population, more people receive communion at home than go to church. As an Anglo-Catholic,

Canon York has a reputation for revitalising worship while adhering to tradition.

"In my last benefice, in mid-Cornwall, one parish had a very small congregation, about eight people. My predecessor had died there. So had his predecessor, and so had his. The last incumbent to leave the parish in anything other than his coffin was in 1908, and he outstayed his welcome for 30 years, going on until he was 88," Canon York built the congregation up to about 40.

Canon York trained at St Chad's in Durham, where he was taught and ordained by Michael Ramsey, future Archbishop of Canterbury. "You go into the ministry with great confidence, thinking things are bound to get better," he says. "My only object was to serve. I think you assumed in those days that by working away diligently you would get a response."

"In some ways it is better. There is a much deeper sense of commitment among many church people. There used to be a general feeling that most people were Christians and they could go to church when they liked. That has disappeared."

He writes a fresh sermon every week. "Once a sermon is delivered, it goes in the waste paper basket. It belongs to that Sunday and that year only. I used to keep them, but then vanity disappeared. I take one week to think about it, one hour to write it and ten minutes to deliver it. I know people take note. They might not say anything straight away but they often do later on."

Earlier in his ministry, he experienced doubt and depression. "Doubt, not that the faith is untrue, but doubt in the sense of 'Can I keep me going?' But then most lives have a great deal of personal setback and difficulty. The clergy are no exception."

"In some ways they are worse off, because they are expected to keep going and look cheerful. We are not allowed the luxury of a good howl, although I do it when nobody is looking."

A frisson of excitement must have been felt by the three churchgoers in the tiny hamlet of Creacombe, Devon, when the Rev Laurence Meering, aged 43, a former chemistry teacher, arrived in their midst. His benefice also takes in Witheridge, Worlington, Thelbridge and Meshaw.

Mr Meering is a charismatic evangelical. He asked that I pray with him over the telephone before agreeing to an interview. Since he arrived in his new benefice in 1987, he says local churchgoers have experienced "gifts of the spirit", such as speaking in

longues. A regular prayer and praise roadshow, organised by Mr Meering and neighbouring vicars, has filled churches which have been virtually empty for decades. For most services, however, he still uses the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

At Creacombe, they rarely sing hymns. "It is not worth it with so few," Mr Meering says. "We import an organist for harvest, Easter and Christmas."

"I have been in the ministry for nearly 11 years, but am more of a townie and am still feeling my way in the country. They are being very forbearing here. Sometimes I come

away thinking it is a waste of time, but I found it very helpful to hear of someone in a similar position, who was asked how he went on preaching to such a small number, time and time again."

"He said it is not just the people who are there; the angels are listening also. We proclaim the word of God to all the invisible powers, as well as to the visible humans."

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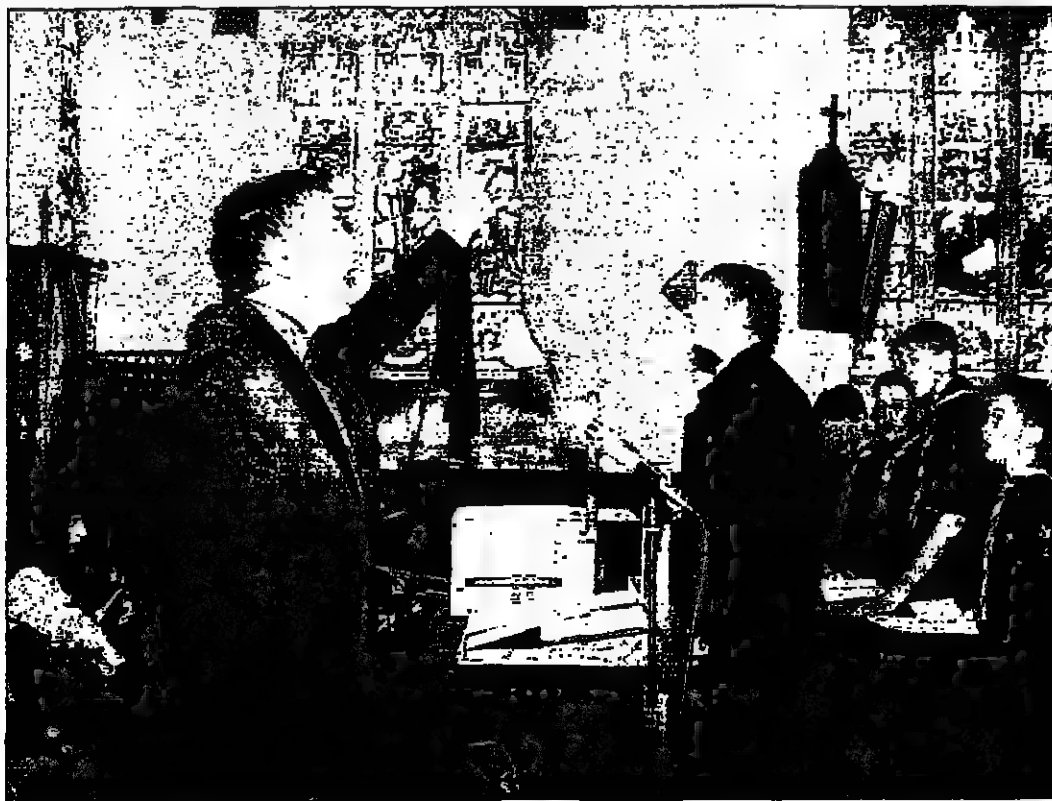


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Hallelujah chorus: Laurence Meering brings charismatic evangelism to his flock in rural Devon

GALLERIES: LONDON

His eternal posing was not in vain

Richard Cork reviews a show of pictures of George Bernard Shaw at the National Portrait Gallery

Never afraid of acting up to painters, caricaturists and to photographers, George Bernard Shaw in his ubiquitous prime became the most instantly recognisable writer of the day. The images he generated fill the National Portrait Gallery's *GBS In Close Up* exhibition with unquenchable provocation and humour. But the surprise of the show is the early Shaw, who waited a remarkably long time before presenting his fully-formed GBS persona to the Victorian world.

Far from conquering literary London overnight, as an enigmatic figure, Shaw only made his debut as a playwright at the age of 36. Before then, he was known as either a critic or a novelist, and the first memorable portraits of him show a man emerging from obscurity with diffidence. Self-consciously placed against a backdrop of leaves in Battersea Park, the writer narrows his eyes for a camera held by the fine-art printer Emery Walker. His stiff smile cannot hide the scepticism with which Shaw views the lens, as he shelters beneath the shadow of a broad-brimmed hat.

At that time, as well as reviewing music for *The Star* under the pseudonym *Corno di Bassetto*, he was a critic of *The World*. One of his columns was scornful of the routine society portraiture churned out by Herkomer and pompously paraded at the Royal Academy. Perhaps he feared the prospect of turning into an effigy as dedicated as Herkomer's sitters.

Photography was different. Posing for Walker ended up beguiling Shaw so much that he became fascinated by the camera's possibilities. He acquired a camera of his own,

and soon gave rein to strange, narcissistic fantasies. Around 1898 he photographed himself, the sylph-like product of a vegetarian diet, in a one-piece bathing costume. Then he posed naked on the beach, and a few years later nude at his writing desk.

The inhibition had been replaced by shameless showmanship. His new friend Harry Granville-Barker was obliged to photograph Shaw's bared flesh on the seashore at Mevagissey, but he assumed a less brazen mien when sitting for Rodin in 1906. Flattered by having his bust carved by such a renowned sculptor, Shaw was further gratified when Rodin likened his face to Christ's.

Such compliments are not, however, guaranteed to nurture incisive portraits. Both the bronze and marble versions of Shaw's bust were unrevealing, even doubtful. Their bland placidity made a nonsense not only of the sitters' innate restlessness, but of Rodin's own legendary dynamism.

As Shaw described it, the sculptor liked "taking a big draught of water into his mouth and spitting it on to the clay to keep it constantly pliable. Absorbed in his work, he did not always aim well and soaked my clothes." Shaw was also astonished by the mutilations Rodin inflicted on his features, slicing off noses and ears with such surgical efficiency that the sitters' wife "expected to see the already terribly animated clay begin to bleed".

No sign of these alarming

struggles was allowed to disturb the finished busts. They err on the side of discretion, and the only sculptor to seize something of Shaw's ceaseless vitality was Epstein. Although the playwright was 78 by the time this furrowed brow was modelled in 1934, his wildly protuberant eyes and turbulent beard have the unruly energy of an Old Testament prophet.

The impetuous action of Epstein's finger and thumb are forcefully preserved in a head which conveys Shaw's eccentricity as well as his visionary fervour. But the sitters recoiled from the result, claiming that he looked like a "primitive barbarian" and refusing to have the head in his house when Epstein offered it as a present.

Although Shaw bequeathed a substantial part of his royalties to the National Gallery of Ireland, he showed no great passion for either sculpture or painting. But the camera continued to be a consuming interest, and in 1904 he championed the young American photographer Alvin Langdon Coburn after his arrival in London. Coburn, approaching his peak, rewarded Shaw's enthusiasm by publishing some refined portraits of the playwright in his *Men of Mark* book.

His most arresting studies of Shaw are, however, the least formal. In one audacious 1908 photograph, over half the picture is devoted to the

shadows of branches cast by the evening sun. Their sinewy elongation chimes with the playwright's own figure, resting in a diagonal direction on a tree-trunk as he jots down some notes in a pocket-book. Equally powerful is an image of Shaw and H.G. Wells. The mood is convivial, with Wells's relaxed face inclining at a jovial angle in his friend's direction. Shaw savours the mellowness as well, but his head remains upright and gazes out of the picture with a more questioning expression.

Did he ever really unwind? The torrential volume of his output bears all the marks of a workaholic. Even when he posed for Augustus John in 1915, closing his eyes while the session proceeded, the outcome was the opposite of somnolent. Shaw's ruddy features retain all their resolution as he allows the next passage in a play or article to burgeon in his mind. The demand for Shaw's work was by then incessant, and rewarded with remuneration far grander than John commanded. He recalled later that Shaw had exclaimed "when I informed him of my fee", and asked: "Do you mean to say you work for so paltry a sum?" But before John had time to revise his charges, "the cheque was written and handed over".

By this stage, the success of *Pygmalion* had turned Shaw into a towering figure. When Alick Ritchie gently caricatured him for *Vanity Fair*, he was presented as a cocksure celebrity in a cowboy hat and a long, checked coat. While one eye winks, the other stares out with laser-like sharpness. In his capacious pocket a copy of *Caesar and Cleopatra* is attributed to "Shawespeare".

The award of the Nobel Prize in 1925 gave him still greater stature. Sir Bernard



Grandfatherly: Dame Laura Knight's oil of GBS, from the collection of the Hereford City Museum & Art Gallery

Partridge's *Punch* portrait of that year depicted Shaw as a supremely assertive figure. With white brows lowered in a commanding frown, he places hands on hips like a headmaster terrifying an unruly pupil. Dame Laura Knight found herself painting him while he sat, simultaneously, for the

sculptor Sigismond de Strobl. Conflict arose between the two artists: Knight wanted him to remain still, while de Strobl asked Shaw to adopt a variety of positions. Perhaps the difficulties militated against the painter, who produced an excessively genial, grandfatherly image. "You made me a

sincere man," Shaw complained, "and all my life I have been an actor."

In the end, though, even Shaw grew tired of portraiture. When John requested another sitting in 1947, the 91-year-old "sage of Ayot St Lawrence" turned him down. Declaring that he was incapable of

posing for half an hour, Shaw pointed out that he was just an elderly man in a white beard. The old show-off was tired out, and had no desire to see his decrepitude immortalised on canvas.

● *GBS In Close Up* continues at the National Portrait Gallery (071-306 0055) until July 5.

Decoding the messages from the past

The Royal Shakespeare Company's latest rediscovery among 17th-century plays is *A Jovial Crew*, by Richard Brome, Ben Jonson's servant. Clare Colvin reports



Ann Catley sang Rachel in a 1770 production of an operatic version of Richard Brome's *A Jovial Crew*

The Royal Shakespeare Company can sometimes be thought of as an excavating business, digging away into the debris of 300 years to unearth forgotten plays. Only recently came Thomas Shadwell's *The Virtuoso*, which had remained on the shelves for nearly three centuries, transferred from the RSC's Stratford base for a London airing. Now it is the turn of Richard Brome's *A Jovial Crew*, which is in preview at Stratford's Swan Theatre, having lain undiscovered since the 15th century.

Brome (pronounced Broom, as in new), a servant of Ben Jonson, was a self-educated man who was encouraged by his master to read the playwright's library. His first success came around the time of the failure of Jonson's own *The New Inn*, which rather cooled their relationship. *A Jovial Crew* was written in 1641, in the shadow of the civil war, and was one of the last plays to be performed before the theatres were closed. Its last known performance as a play was in 1742, though it was turned into an opera and, in 1770, performed by a cast

including the celebrated singer Ann Catley (who also sang Polly in *The Beggar's Opera*).

There are historical reasons for its lapse from favour. As the RSC's artistic director Adrian Noble says: "People thought that theatre in the Caroline period was like a valley after a great mountain of achievement by Shakespeare, Middleton and Jonson, but there are many treasures which are a crucial link between Shakespeare and Farquhar and Restoration plays."

Max Stafford-Clark, who is directing *A Jovial Crew*, sees it as a coded message from the past, written at a time when criticism of the government could not be voiced directly, and the playwright acted as journalist. The story, about two young women who run away from home to join a band of beggars, deals with the growing problems of the homeless at that time. It is, he says, an allegory seeking to raise public consciousness of the irresponsibility of both

Parliament and the King.

Unlike *The Virtuoso*, which is played as written, but cut to under three hours from its original four and a half, *A Jovial Crew* has been reworked in the second act by Stephen Jeffreys, whose plays include *Valued Friends* and *The Clink*. The songwriter Ian Dury has re-written the lyrics. "The play sets up a fascinating plot and then withdraws from it," Jeffreys explains. "One senses that Brome was imprisoned by elements of self-

censorship and the second half was a series of set pieces that did not add to the plot. The basic shape is the same, but I have taken the characters he has created and pushed them further. It is like restoring a painting. You try to be faithful to the colours of the original."

What the RSC calls its "discovery" plays are the result of what Noble calls "endless trawls, both collectively and independently". The literary manager or dramaturg, Colin Chambers, hies off to The

London Library to search out plays that are drawn to his attention by academics such as Anne Barton, an authority on Caroline drama.

Shakespeare's plays open themselves up anew each time they are played, whereas Jonson or Marlowe, as Chambers admits, "sit less easily on our ears and on our minds. I don't believe people will be rushing to repeat *The Silent Woman* or *The New Inn*."

But the successes outweigh the failures, if one recalls the

surfacing of such gems as *The Rover*, written in 1677, *Wild Oats* (1791) and also later neglected plays like Bourcault's *London Assurance* (1841).

Adrian Noble says: "By increasing the number of discovery plays we are building up an audience with an appetite for the brand new experience of an unknown play. It may be in future that somewhere, such as the Theatre Cwyd, in Wales, will put on *The Virtuoso* instead of another *School for Scandal*."

● *A Jovial Crew* opens at the Swan Theatre, Stratford (0789 295623), on Tuesday.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Everybody needs an expert friend

The authority of the law and the certainty of science make a powerful alliance. Judge and jury are often swayed by the confident tones of the expert witness presenting evidence they do not have the knowledge to assess properly. Seldom is the same expertise brought to bear for the defence, for in Britain forensic science has been used overwhelmingly as a means of securing convictions, not acquittals.

The dangers were made painfully apparent by the wrongful convictions of the Birmingham Six. *Taking Liberties* last night on BBC 2 looked at some less celebrated cases and produced evidence that science and pseudo-science are being used as blunt instruments in Britain's criminal courts.

Peter Noble, charged with rape, faced evidence linking fibres found on the victim to clothing removed from his wardrobe by police. Refused legal aid to challenge the findings, Noble was lucky that his family raised the £3,000 needed for independent advice. The expert they consulted, Dr Angela Gallop of Forensic Access, contested the Home Office evidence, claiming that the fibres were of a common type.

After seven months in jail

awaiting trial, Noble was acquitted. "It's a big gamble, isn't it?" he said. "Like having a bet on the horses." The majesty of the law might demur at being compared to a punt at the bookies, but he had a point.

Jason Williams, a 21-year-old, was convicted of a rape after evidence was given that his teeth matched bite marks on the nose of the victim. This time, two experts gave evidence, one for the prosecution and the other for the defence. The jury chose to believe the prosecution's man, and Williams is consequently serving

five years in youth custody.

The point made by *Taking Liberties* was that convictions made on the basis of scientific findings cannot be secure unless both prosecution and defence have access to the same science. No ordinary person can form a sensible opinion of the evidential value of a fragment of fibre without an expert witness to interpret it. But if the expert witnesses are all appearing for the prosecution, that leaves the accused in jeopardy.

What is the answer? Independent forensic scientists believe that changes in the legal aid provisions are needed to restore the balance between prosecution and defence. "Science and the law should admit how fallible they can be," reporter David Jessel asserted. It seemed a conclusion amply justified by events.

NIGEL HAWKES



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Sense and sensitivity

'Knowledge-base non possessors' can take comfort in a new guide to the intricacies of political correctness

Let us say you are finely tuned to the nuances of political correctness, the creed of sensitivity that has swept from American universities into the public discourse in the past three years and now across the Atlantic.

You would, for example, never refer to a man in a wheelchair as a handicapped man but as a challenged person. You would always describe a backward schoolgirl as an exceptional child. You would never dream of saying someone was black, preferring African American.

But in using these coinages, correct as recently as a year ago, you would be making thoroughly "inappropriate choices", to use two arch-PC words. You would be committing the sins of "ableism" and racism because the handicapped are now called the differently-abled.

Better still, turn the thought around and refer to the able-bodied as "temporarily abled persons". The schoolgirl, and this is not a joke, should be called an "exceptional prewoman" because "exceptional" implies exclusion and girl is sexist. On race, non-whites must now be called persons of colour, or more specifically, members of the African diaspora.

When it comes to bending over backwards to avoid offending the sensibilities of "oppressed" groups, which is what the PC mentality is all about, the language police move swiftly, purging any hint of judgment. Help is on the way for all those who want to avoid being considered "knowledge-base non-possessors" (ignorant). Later this month they can turn to *The Official Politically Correct Dictionary and Handbook*, a compilation of terms by Henry Beard and Christopher Cerf, to be published by Villard Books in America and by HarperCollins in Britain in December.

The handbook itself violates a cardinal rule of political correctness, the one prohibiting "inappropriately directed laughter." Though tongue in cheek, the book draws on terms from respectable published sources, but many of its entries come from the loonier fringes of animal rights, ecology and feminism.

A few years ago, for example, pet was purged from sensitive discourse in favour of animal companion. That implies "speciesism" so you should now refer simply to your companion. Wives or girlfriends should be called unpaid sex workers, and the gender-sensitive should jettison "himself" and "herself" ("coself"), a term widely found in feminist writing.

In the fast-expanding field of sexual harassment, the compilers have unearthed such nuggets as "receptive non-initiator", a term used in a New York University text. This is the "man guilty of allowing himself to be seduced by a woman in a subordinate position to himself".

However, the dictionary lists dozens of widely used terms and serves as a useful lesson in the way PC, for all its excesses, has for the people talk in America and, increasingly, in Britain.

Some of it is merely an extension of the American love

of euphemism noted in the last century by such eminent visitors as Charles Dickens. The desire to soften unpleasant concepts such as age, death or crime gave the world senior citizens, morticians and "correctional systems", the now standard term for prison. (Example: Leona Helmsley this week became a client of the correctional system.)

In the past five years, other euphemisms have entered general speech. In deference to the self-esteem of toddlers newspapers refer to "kindergarten students". Substance abuse is now the general term for drug or alcohol addiction and sexually dysfunctional is the term for what used to be known as perverted. All that PC culture has done is extend the process so that a serial killer may be called a "socially misaligned" person. If his speciality is, say cannibalism, he can be termed a "person of difficult to meet needs", as the handbook notes.

The compilers call the process the Whorf-Sapir hypothesis, after Benjamin Lee Whorf and Edward Sapir, two academics who argued that "before we can change a pattern of behaviour, we must change the terms which relate to it".

At the heart of PC lies the dogma of diversity, the idea that America needs new language to break from a culture

'If a man's speciality is, say, cannibalism, he can be termed a 'person of difficult to meet needs'

shaped by DWEMs (dead white European males) and still dominated by the "white patriarchy". This leads the handbook to advise avoiding using terms such as "academic freedom", a DWEM notion if ever there was.

The prevailing duty of a university teacher is not to express his or her coself but to create a better world, according to the PC view. The true PC person writes unreadable prose in order to identify with the oppressed or those who are simply too "motivationally dispossessed" (lazy) to do otherwise.

The PC culture, springing from the left-wing outlook of the middle-aged academics who dominate the universities, is still well removed from the American mainstream but is making solid inroads. This is because it chimes with the way the country is fleeing from risk and moral judgment into the realm of "victimology". Every guest on a talk show is a "survivor" of some kind, blaming everything from alcoholism to bankruptcy on negligent parents or low self-esteem.

In Santa Cruz, California, the town council has given provisional approval to another pioneering step: a by-law prohibiting "lookism" in the recruiting of employees. This is designed to protect from discrimination the differently sized (fat), the follicularly challenged (bald), the cosmetically different (ugly) or the plain chronologically gifted (old) and perhaps the charm-free (boring). The key is avoiding anything that smacks of judgment or hurts the feelings of any member of a minority.

The dotter extremes of the PC mentality will no doubt eventually succumb to good old American common sense, but not before it has robbed the language of some old-fashioned but healthy words.

CHARLES BREMNER

Alice Thomson experiences the charm offensive of Gillian Shephard, the new employment minister

John Major's iron lady



She was only a farmer's daughter: Gillian Shephard's background gave no clue to her inner steel

The security guard was adamant there was no Gillian Shephard in the employment department. He looked the name up in the directory, she wasn't there. "I think she is your new minister," I said. "Mike, who's our new boss?" he shouted. "A woman," Mike shouted back. "I think she's called Shephard."

Engulfed in her vast new offices on the sixth floor the diminutive Mrs Shephard is highly amused. "Nobody knows me," she says delightedly. "Why should they? I just tell people I'm the one that looks like Edwina Currie."

With her snappy suit, comically arched eyebrows and bouffant hairstyle, the new Minister of Employment does bear a startling physical resemblance to her colleague.

Mrs Shephard is one of two women to be promoted by John Major to his new cabinet. An MP for only five years, her rise has been swift and largely overlooked by the public. She was a key member of Mr Major's leadership team and became the highest ranking woman ever in the Treasury when she was made a minister of state. She has consistently been singled out for praise by Mr Major and was given a prominent role during the election campaign as the deputy party chairman, chairing some of the daily press conferences.

While at Conservative Central Office she kept the young Turks going on take-away pizzas and insisted on eating in the canteen. Her constituents in Norfolk fondly recount how she managed to get the entire village of Marham double glazed at public expense against warplane noise. Her colleagues say she will always use charm instead of force.

"I feel as though I have known her for three years, not 24 hours. She's lovely," says the senior press officer as he ushers me into the room. Mrs Shephard offers a glass of water. "Oh help, I think you have been given the flower vase," she says and squeals with laughter.

Mr Major said he would promote women to the cabinet only on merit, but Mrs Shephard really tough enough for the job. She has no doubts. "People who have worked with me in a ministerial capacity know that I am not likely to be walked over. I haven't been in any stage of my life and I've had quite tough things to do before I ever came to the cabinet," she says, brandishing a letter from a county council colleague of former days who has written: "I wonder if some of the union leaders know what they have got coming to them. They will be shaken by your clarity of thought and ability to turn their arguments back on them."

She admits to using a certain amount of feminine charm. "Women do seem to do things in one way and men in another. I seek solutions before I go for confrontation. I also try to listen. Nothing is so unacceptable as turning down arguments without actually listening to them. I think it is insulting to human beings. And so does the prime minister," she says, with more steel in her voice than charm.

Mrs Shephard, 52, has more political experience than her relative brief sojourn in the House suggests. After reading French and Latin at Oxford university, she held a variety of jobs in local government in Norfolk, ending up as the county council deputy leader, and has run several health authorities. There was one period when she was simultaneously the chairman of the local health and the local education committees, on the mental health acts commission and a magistrate.

In 1975, at 35, she married Tom Shephard, then a headmaster of a local comprehensive school and a widower, and inherited two young sons.

She was nervous about being a stepmother but put a hold on her career for ten years to look after them. After the count on election night, her Labour voting step-son, Neil, drove

her four hours back to Central Office so she could celebrate.

At the age of 46, long past the normal sell-by date for would-be MPs, Mrs Shephard decided to stand as Conservative candidate for South West Norfolk, after the constituency turned down Central Office's non-local candidate. With little time to look for an alternative, she opted for Mrs Shephard, on the grounds that as a Norfolk farmer's daughter, brought up among chickens and livestock, she was unlikely to cause much of a stir. Five years later she is in the cabinet.

Even Mrs Shephard is startled. "Well I must say it is fairly quick, isn't it? I mean I do not know whether that is a record," she says and then sounds

rather embarrassed at her forthrightness.

Her life has always been crowded, so she understands balance and is not worried about taking on the employment department, dealing with local constituency affairs and spending time with her husband. "Women are more conscious of getting a healthy balance in life because they have come into politics later. It's a phase in your life, not your whole life," she says. "There is a tendency for ministers to get taken over which I will resist."

Considering she has always stressed that the two most important ministries are the treasury and education, wasn't Mrs Shephard slightly disappointed with her lot? "I'm

thrilled," she says. "Clearly, if you're offered anything in the cabinet you must be delighted but when I saw in the manifesto that this job was going to be enhanced by the addition of jobs to do with women I thought 'goodness, how very interesting'. Then there is all the employment law, the reform of the industrial relations act, sex discrimination, race discrimination, industrial tribunals..."

Mrs Shephard wasted no time in getting down to work. On Sunday she immediately summoned her officials for a meeting and made clear she wasn't going to waste her time promoting "artificial initiatives which don't mean anything. I don't forget that people of both sexes are out of work and that's a horrible thing for themselves and their families," she says. "What we want is for the economy to start turning again so that jobs come back, because only business can actually create jobs. In the meantime our priority must be to supply good training."

On what she describes as "women's issues", Mrs Shephard will look to improving childcare, although she does not believe that this alone is the key to better opportunities. "What really matters is increasing women's confidence, whether they are about to enter the jobs market or are returning after having a family," she says. "I suffered a real loss of identity when I gave up work and I found it very difficult returning. I had gone from a position where I had a secretary and staff to a job where I was the staff and doing the photocopying and dogbodying."

She would also like to see more women in the House of Commons and is close friends with women members as diverse as the Conservative Anne Widdecombe, with whom she shared an office, and Labour's Clare Short. She finds some of her male colleagues' bawling behaviour demeaning. "I don't think we have got nearly enough women in yet. If we get more it will make a difference to behaviour, there's no doubt about it," she says.

Of her fellow female cabinet minister, Virginia Bottomley, the new health secretary, she comments: "I admire her ability, I admire her looks enormously, she's just marvellous to look at isn't she? It's just great to have her zooming about looking tremendous." No male colleague would dare to say this in public.

In the cabinet she feels ideologically closest to Mr Major. "He sees that you have to bring people round slowly to your way of thinking, have sound economic policies and keep a firm grip on public spending," she says.

She is also polite about Michael Heseltine's "dazzling role" in the election, but one feels that isn't quite her style. She doesn't think she wants endless Tory rule. "The prospect of one party rule is rather unhealthy, but I don't think it will happen in real life. People will vote themselves out of it in the end," she says, before getting up to go.

She is off to see the Queen to be made a privy councillor. "My father is thrilled," she says. "I've just realised that I will be the right honourable for the rest of my life, that's rather nice don't you think, rather a boost."

When the world is nonsense

Autism denies its victims normal human contact. Now a sufferer has described her remote, inner world

Donna Williams has her own set of rules for interviews. First she must meet the reporter the day before, preferably in a quiet, green place. No "interview" questions must be asked: small-talk only. Then she must be faxed a list of questions, to which she sends long written replies. At no time must the interviewer shake hands, crack jokes, show emotion, use metaphors, vary their tone or switch topics suddenly. Otherwise Ms Williams may become stressed and run for it. Add to these conditions the normal hectic juggling of schedules imposed by a publisher convinced it has a hot property, and she is not the only one who gets stressed.

But Ms Williams, a 29-year-old Australian, is worth it. And her conditions are as reasonable as if a normal interviewee should ask reporters not to hit her, sob, or shout questions in Chinese. Normal subjects do not have to make such stipulations because their social and verbal perceptions are those of the majority: Ms Williams' are not. To her a handshake is an ordeal, the emotion of others a threat, and elliptical sentences a garble. She is autistic, severely so, and has written a book about her life.

To my question on how she sees new people she replied: "Their language is difficult to follow and miles away and their movements anywhere from distracting to annoying to frightening." Crowds overload her entirely. "Sometimes the meaning drops out of things and what I see or hear is reduced to basic colour, shape, pattern and sound."

Autism is a strange, barely understood abnormality apparent from infancy in four children in every 10,000. Sufferers cannot process information properly, particularly human expressions, allusions and gestures. Autistic children

typically avoid eye contact, hate being touched, and show no emotion except fits of rage. A puzzle or a pattern absorbs them utterly, but conversation is met with parrot repetition or with silence. Despite their frequent great intelligence, they are desperately hard to get along with: their stiff chilliness baffles, sometimes alienates, their parents.

But Ms Williams has written about the process from the other side: right from the moment in her cot when the air was full of lovely patterns and "people would walk by obstructing my magic view of nothingness". Her inability to communicate and co-operate was met in her working-class Melbourne home with violence and abuse from her mother. "How can I blame her when all efforts to reach me resulted in self-abuse because I wanted no one near me? When the only way she could find to stun me into stopping trying to tear my skin off with my teeth was to hit me?"

At school she was perceived as intelligent but devoid of sense, and found rules incomprehensible: tell her not to draw on the wall and she would stop, but start again in a moment because in her logic only the earlier moment contained the prohibition. In her teens she became a sexual victim in return for shelter. "I hadn't even reached the stage where I realised my body belonged to me. I took it as coincidence that it was stuck on me... I suffered abuse at the hands of a well-intentioned but ignorant foster mother practising hug therapy, and men capitalised on my having been taught to tolerate touch in spite of it making me feel ill."

She learnt to conceal herself behind two personas: "Willie" the rebel child, who attacked the world back, and "Carol", a giggling and complaisant extrovert. She ran through a series of jobs, sometimes disastrously, as a machinist she put buttonholes all over a fur coat, not realising they had to go in any particular place, sometimes with success. Her passion for arranging things made her a wonderful stockroom assistant in a department store.

In her twenties she gradually identified herself as Donna. She does not look abnormal. Arriving for my first meeting, I find a slight girl in tattered slacks with a constant air of being poised for flight. By appalling mischance, on her first evening in London Ms



Three faces of Donna: in her late twenties she gradually identified with her real self



'Willie': the young rebellious persona



'Carol': the extrovert who could smile

Williams's room was burgled. She might, warned her publisher, be more stressed than usual. Actually, she is fine and makes perfect sense.

The burglary seems to have touched her less than a normal person: perhaps if good-fellowship is a mystery to you, wickedness hits less near the heart. "You've had bad fortune," I say as we walk out. "And much good fortune too. You cannot have one without the other." Ms Williams says, leading the way to the park with light, dancing steps. Her extreme literalness makes for these gnomish utterances. Once you learn to speak in simple

linear sentences, as if translating from Latin, conversation is not too difficult. But "I don't understand the thing they call manners," she says. "It makes no sense at all." Her own questions have the directness of a child's.

Facts are easiest. So in the park we discuss ice-houses, ducks, why camels spit (she likes camels because she too spits when angry), and other readily concrete subjects. Ms Williams shows encyclopaedic, eclectic factual knowledge of everything from the pH level of swimming pools to the sex of trees. She would make a formidable scientist.

She stops by a sculpture. "You could practise on him,"

Being with people. See, you could poke your finger in his eye and nothing's changed." Then an unsolicited memory from her childhood: her angry mother used to try to prove herself, Ms Williams says, by giving her dolls. "I hated them. The more my mother hated me the bigger the dolls got." I observe that I hated dolls too and threw mine out of a ship's porthole. Ms Williams hugely approves of this, and I try a small bridge between us by saying that nobody should expect any child to like conventional things. "If the child says no..." "Ahh!" Ms Williams says. "But I couldn't say, couldn't tell anyone..." It is a nightmarish glimpse of her glassed-off world.

Once she helped an autistic child in a home by pushing aside the car who was thrusting a doll at her, and offering instead a hairbrush to stroke repetitively. "Dolls stare at you. Their faces expect something. A hairbrush doesn't do that. It just goes 'prrrrr' and soothes you."

At the end of the walk we have reached a reasonable accommodation. Next day, we meet again. I look at her seldom and briefly. "If people look," she says, "their face is saying I order you to look at me." Her newest achievement is friendship: "My friendships are not just empty symbols of normality any more. I have gone from sharing nothing to sharing words, from sharing words to sharing facts, from facts to thoughts and now I am trying to share feelings. Now I must learn how to link my feelings to words and expressions. It is a new world."

She is reaching out towards the world with more intelligence than it ever used in trying to reach her. For that she should be honoured.

LIBBY PURVES

Nobody Nowhere by Donna Williams is published by Doubleday (£14.99)

THE TIMES/DILLONS DEBATE 'How Dangerous is Science?'

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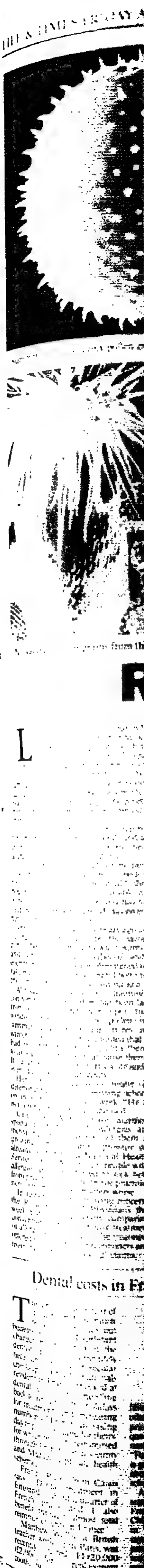
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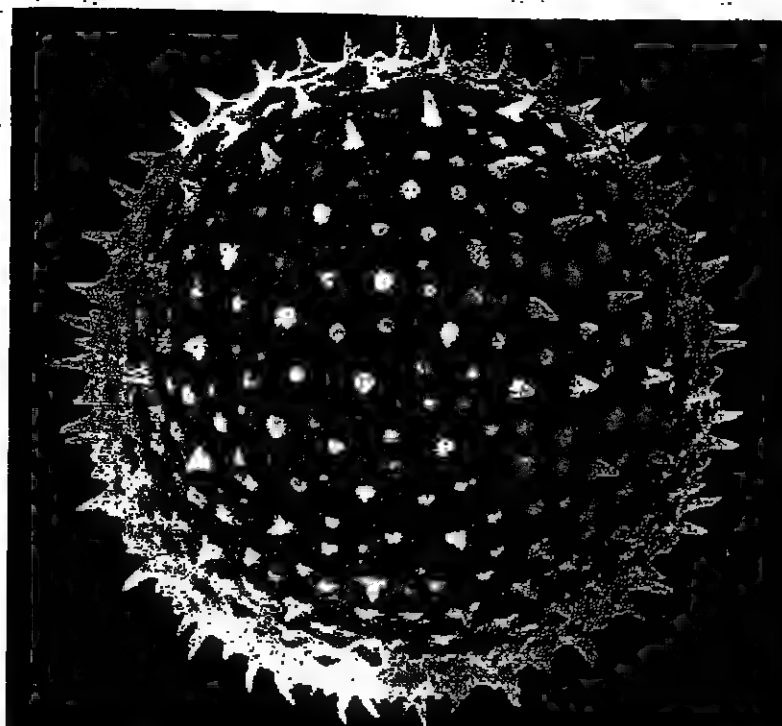
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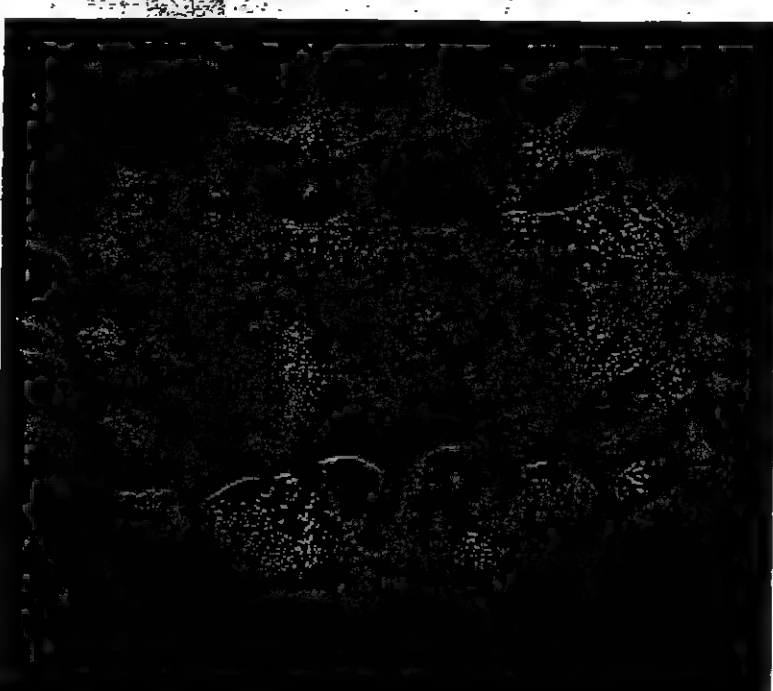




Summer madness: a tiny pollen grain from the garden hollyhock, left, or passion flower, right, the season miserable for those who are allergic



No way out: pollen grains from the Venice Mallow flower, left, and pot marigold make it impossible for people with allergies to open windows



Rash reaction

Jeremy Laurance considers growing interest in allergies and a new report on treatment

Last year, Anne, a 41-year-old single mother living on income support, paid a private dentist £600 to remove all the fillings in her teeth because she believed she was allergic to the mercury in the amalgam. She stayed in a private allergy clinic for two weeks, where she was put on a Vitamin C drip to help her recover from the anaesthetics. The bill there came to £4,000.

She returned to the clinic in January for further vitamins and minerals and a course of "vaccines" to control her allergies. The bill came to £2,000. Her treatment was paid for by two local charities. She says she is better because she can do "almost all" the housework. But she is still unable to work or to leave the house and has to sleep every afternoon. Her GP has given her a 12-month sick note.

Anne was diagnosed five years ago as "allergic to everything" by the same clinic. "NHS doctors said I was neurotic and depressed. I was labelled with everything. Social workers threatened to take my son away. Only when I went to the clinic were my allergies unmasked." Although she found the diagnosis comforting, life since then has been far from easy. "I can't even open the windows because of the pollen in summer and the mould spores in winter," she said. "I once counted that I had 80 symptoms and I can link them to at least 100 things that cause them. It's a dreadful existence. It's a struggle every day to keep your sanity."

Her nine-year-old son's health is deteriorating and he is missing school on an average of a day a week. "He is not coping emotionally," she said. Cases like Anne's have alarmed specialists in the field. Allergies are increasing and awareness of them is growing. This is putting pressure on already overstretched National Health Service clinics. As a result, people with allergies are being forced to seek help from private clinics and fringe practitioners, who may make matters worse.

In response to the growing concern, the Royal College of Physicians this week published a report comparing conventional and alternative treatment of allergy. It is critical of the treatment offered by some fringe practitioners and their "false and misleading" claims.

Produced by a committee of leading NHS allergy specialists, the report warns that clinics offer treatments that have not been validated. It says patients may be harmed because of misdiagnosis or delays in treatment.

The report dismisses the techniques of homeopathy, clinical ecology, hair analysis, and kinesiology as having no scientific foundation. It gives credence to only two alternative treatments: hypnosis and herbal remedies, with a half-hearted endorsement of acupuncture.

Hypnosis can affect allergic reactions and may have a role in helping the asthmatic, it says. Similar effects have been claimed for acupuncture. The report also accepts that traditional Chinese medicinal plants have been shown to help children with eczema.

About 10 per cent of people suffer genuine allergies but many more believe they have them, and can become angry and upset when this is denied by conventional doctors.

A postal survey of 30,000 people published in the journal of the Royal College of Physicians in 1987 revealed 1,372, almost 5 per cent, believed they were sensitive to food additives, for example. But after further investigation the diagnosis was confirmed in only three cases.

Conventional treatment of allergy has had its share of criticism. In 1989, a leading article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* suggested a large proportion of people who consulted allergists had psychiatric problems and were seeking a socially acceptable label for them. "Through kindness and enthusiasm, many doctors may be doing a great disservice to ill persons seeking a non-psychiatric diagnosis," the report says. But conventional treat-

ment can also be dangerous. In the early 1980s a series of deaths were caused by the inappropriate use of desensitisation techniques in NHS clinics. The latest Royal College of Physicians report says more research is required to develop better treatments and that there are no grounds for complacency among conventional doctors.

These worries have surfaced as public interest in allergy has grown. The British Allergy Foundation, a charity launched last June to raise public awareness, has had 13,000 letters requesting information.

"We have been overwhelmed," a spokeswoman said. Professor Robert Davies, the charity's founder and a consultant physician at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, said that true allergy was "quite restricted". "But if you don't feel very well or suffer from fatigue it is the fashion to attribute it to chronic allergy."

One in six people is estimated to suffer from allergies. Hay fever and asthma, the most common, are increasing. This is thought to be because of rising pollution, centrally-heated, dusty houses, and greater awareness among doctors. Multiple allergy to food and other substances is rare.

Patients who attend some private allergy clinics may, however, be tested less rigorously. Treatment can amount to "brainwashing", according to Dr David Pearson, director of the NHS allergy clinic at Withington Hospital, Manchester.

"You inject the patients with something that makes them sick as a dog and then give them another that makes them better and you suggest all the time that they've got the allergy and you've got the cure - so they go on to develop a Pavlovian response," he said. "There is very positive evidence that giving a false

diagnosis of allergy prevents people obtaining the therapy that can help them. Many patients are sad, distressed people going through life crises."

He warned that people could be harmed by being given the wrong diagnosis and treatment. "If a patient has a genuine allergy it is potentially lethal to test for it by injecting an extract of the substance under the skin. I know of a case where a patient suffered a life-threatening reaction."

Dr Martin Stern, a clinical immunologist at the University of Leicester, said there was "extreme concern" about some of the practices of private allergy clinics.

"People are given tests the results of which are meaningless," Dr Stern said. "But because of the paucity of NHS services, people are at their wits' end about where to go for help." He said he had seen patients go to private clinics until they ran out of money.

In Southampton, Professor John Warner, a consultant paediatrician, said he had seen patients who had been put on special diets by private allergy clinics that had caused malnutrition. "The parents of a child with cystic fibrosis (an inherited digestive disorder) went to a clinic where they were recommended to restrict certain foods, which is a disaster in cystic fibrosis. It is absolutely terrible that a private clinic could take on a patient like this for which there is proven treatment."

There are some private clinics that are "perfectly reputable", said Professor Warner, but others "verge on the lunatic and practise a form of medicine that is 'frankly dangerous'. Patients seeking a 'perfectly reputable' private clinic would be best advised to ask their GP for a recommendation."

The problem is that those seeking such help often do so because they feel their GP is not helping them. "The trouble is that a number of clinics are run by people who have no medical qualifications and so are not bound by the ethical codes that govern doctors. They can do what they like - and get away with it."

For further information send a SAE to The British Allergy Foundation, St Bartholomew's Hospital, West Smithfield, London EC1A 7BE. The foundation relies entirely on donations.

In-house killer

OWNERS of Tudor, and earlier, houses in Norfolk and Suffolk are so proud of the wattle and daub construction of the inner-walls that they have been known to cut small sections in the plaster so as to display it more readily to their guests. This primitive lath and mud construction is, potentially, as deadly in South America as it is quaint in East Anglia for it is indirectly responsible for one of the world's greatest public health problems: Chagas' disease.

Chagas' disease infects over six million people in Brazil, a million in Venezuela, uncounted tens of millions in the rest of South America and the occasional cases even as far north as Texas. In Britain, until recently, the only people likely to have heard of Chagas' disease, despite its rather peculiar name, were medical students hoping to score an alpha point when discussing heart failure. But last week the blood transfusion service in south London said that it would in future reject the blood of donors who had travelled off the beaten track in South America lest they have been infected with Chagas' disease.

In 1909 Carlos Chagas described a blood parasite, *Trypanosoma cruzi*, which has a life cycle divided between blood sucking reduviid bugs, colloquially known as assassin or kissing bugs, and the blood of mammals; neither birds or reptiles act as hosts. Often in South America the culprit is *Rhodnius prolixus*, which lives in the cracks of lath and mud houses. The bugs, which are nocturnal, congregate in the walls near a bed. If the blood they suck from a sleeping human is infected, the bug itself

MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford



becomes a vector for the disease for the rest of its two-year life, and excretes the parasite on the flesh of its later victims.

Chagas' disease is similar in many respects to African sleeping sickness, which is spread by the tsetse fly. It is divided into three stages. In the first stage an early sore at the site of the initial infection is followed in many cases by a feverish illness characterised by enlarged glands and spleen, and sometimes acute heart failure or meningitis: there is a five per cent mortality. Those who recover haven't seen the last of the disease, for after years or decades of a quiescent secondary stage, in which the patient is symptom-free, the final phase is reached. In the third stage an inflammatory reaction thins the walls of the heart so that they may rupture, or the patient may die of heart failure from weakened heart muscles. In other patients the gut becomes so dilated as the result of weakened muscles that food accumulates in a grossly distended gullet, or constipation, sometimes of many weeks duration, may kill through intestinal obstruction.

Treatment is possible in the first stage, although the drugs used are very toxic, but not thereafter as organs are damaged beyond repair by the time the diagnosis is made. Spraying the houses with insecticide is the favoured method of controlling the disease. The risk of transfusion has been acknowledged in South America for a generation, but recent cases in the United States have now alerted the British authorities, hence their rejection of the backpacking student who returns from Colombia, Peru or elsewhere in South America.

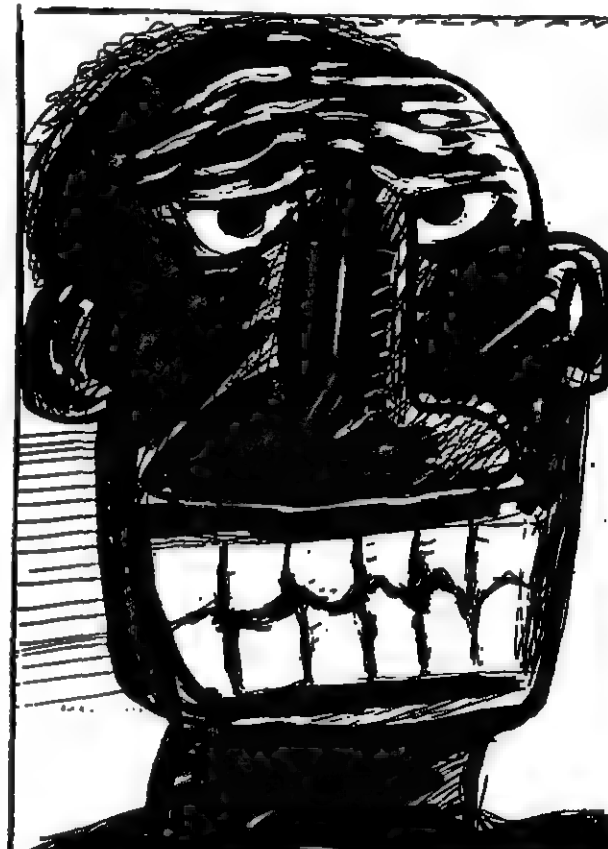
Chemical danger

MERCURY poisoning has been in the news again. In Europe the controversy centres on the possibility of dental patients suffering from their mercury amalgam fillings: a risk which most authorities regard as negligible. In Britain, in fact, it is the dentist who moulds amalgam fillings with his bare thumbs who is in danger of mercury poisoning, and not the patient.

In Natal, South Africa, the Zulu community, and the trade union movement, are enraged because only recently has the government ordered an enquiry into the Thor chemical plant, a British-owned firm, where the workers claim that at least nine employees have suffered from mercury poisoning.

Mercury poisoning can cause swollen gums and central nervous system symptoms, muscle weakness and tremor. Patients also show mental changes including paranoia and hallucinations. These symptoms are described by doctors as erethism. An employee who develops erethism becomes timid, depressed, and obsessed by fear of losing his job, and yet furious and aggressive if supervised or even watched.

The likelihood of danger of



mercury poisoning is assessed by estimating the amount of mercury excreted in a 24-hour specimen. It is likely that a urinary excretion of more than 300 micrograms would be associated with symptoms. In the UK the accepted safe upper limit is 50 micrograms. There seems to be agreement between employers and employees in Natal that this figure has been exceeded many times.

A straightforward treatment

CARLOS CHAGAS belonged to this century, and the disease named after him infects millions. Dr François de la Peyronie, physician to Louis XV, has also given his name to a disease, but the problem he describes only affects a few thousand men, at the very most, in this country. Even so, Peyronie's disease is very distressing to those men who suffer from it but - as with most male genital diseases - it receives little or no publicity.

The plaques which form under the skin of the palm of the hand, and less often the

foot, to cause Dupuytren's contractures were well known even before Margaret Thatcher had surgery to correct hers; less often appreciated is that similar plaques can occur in the cavernous sheaths of the penis. As the plaque thickens and contracts the penis deviates, vertically or horizontally, on erection. Sometimes the angulation is so acute that penetration becomes impossible. Until recently the only effective treatment has been surgery; thereafter the penis is left shorter but functional.

Research at the Institute of Neurology, now based at the Maudsley Hospital in London, has shown that if patients with Peyronie's disease are treated during the initial stages when the plaques are still painful, with Tamoxifen, the drug better known for its use in breast cancer treatment, they may disappear and the penis is straightened without surgery. Not a great leap forward for mankind but a sound medical advance which will make the sufferers, and their partners, profoundly grateful.

Dental costs in France are so high that people are coming to Britain for their treatment

Visits that are double agony

The French live in fear of dentists, not so much because of the pain but because of the cost. Exorbitant charges mean they visit the dentist only when absolutely necessary, and avoid regular check-ups. British nationals resident in France, shocked at dental costs, are travelling back to Britain in the holidays for treatment; and increasing numbers of French are taking day trips to England for theirs, for which they are reimbursed through French social security and *Mutuel*, a private health scheme.

Francis Rubel from Calais says: "Dental treatment in England is about a quarter of French prices and I also benefit through almost total reimbursements in France."

Matthew Wallis, a British teacher working in Paris, was recently quoted as paying £20,000 (£2,000) for a replacement tooth, two crowns and two

fillings. Mr Wallis checked other dentists and found the price was normal. One even quoted FF28,000. "It was a nasty shock," Mr Wallis said. "Fortunately a British dentist is prepared to do the work for about FF4,000 during the school holiday period."

At present, 8,000 British teachers are employed in France. One of them, Stephen Childs, who has been working in Versailles for eight years, says: "At first I paid up. Now I just arrange like most other teachers to have dental check-ups in England during the holiday period."

Teachers are not the only ones to feel the pinch. Brian Ford, a manager for a transport company based in Lille, admits he has continued having check-ups and treatments with his London dentist because it is much cheaper. Curiously, cleaning teeth in France has a low priority. A government health survey last year showed that 40 per cent of French people did not clean their teeth every day because it was considered unimportant: woman placed a higher priority on facial make-up and men on their haircut.

Dentists in France are self-

employed and say the prices reflect their overheads. An average crown costs between FF12,000 and FF10,000 and a filling between FF800 and FF2,000 depending on the work required. A replacement tooth can cost FF14,000.

In Britain, a crown costs £60 on the NHS and £150-£250 privately. Fillings are up to £10 on the NHS and up to £50 privately. A replacement tooth would be about £33 on the NHS and £80-£150 privately. Each French worker pays 5.9 per cent of his or her salary towards medical and dental care. This ensures a third of

dental costs are refunded up to FF7500. *Mutuel* insurance cover averaging FF150 a month insures a further refund of up to 50 per cent of costs to a limit of FF1,500.

Dental costs are fixed by the government, allowing dentists an average of 30 per cent profit on each patient. A dentist with a large number of patients can earn £100,000 a year without difficulty.

One dentist admitted a number of patients had trouble meeting payments for lengthy work. Some took out bank loans to pay for treatment or staggered payment. "Only 20 per cent of my patients have regular check-ups," he said. "The other 80 per cent just come when they have some sort of problems."

He blamed lack of education and publicity for ignorance concerning dental care.

JOHN GILMORE

Contains information vital to society



TATTLER
May issue on sale now

Propaganda or the simple truth?

Ann Kent reports
on what women
can expect when
taking HRT

Three hundred women had filed into Church House, Westminster in central London to find out about the menopause, and now one of them stood up to ask a question. "What happens if you stop taking HRT. Do you just fall apart?"

The audience, mainly intelligent, middle-aged and middle-class, were not surprised by the question. Women are drenched in information about hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and the menopause, but all too often it comes in the form of propaganda.

Teresa Gorman, the MP who founded the Amarant Trust to promote HRT, has said: "I know from my own experience that it [HRT] can do more to improve the quality of your life... than pots of expensive face cream, a holiday in Spain or a complete new wardrobe of clothes."

Opponents of the treatment, such as Germaine Greer, believe women should feel free to age with dignity, accepting the physical consequences. "A grown woman should not have to masquerade as a girl in order to remain in the land of the living", she wrote in her book about the menopause, *The Change*.

Val Godfree, the deputy medical director of the Amarant Trust, tried to reassure the woman who wondered about the effects of stopping HRT. "A large number of ladies take HRT for a short period of time and then come off it. They don't fall apart, but their bones will lose their strength and the risk of heart disease rises," she said.

In fact, the effect of stopping HRT after a few years is to put a woman at the same risk of the bone thinning condition, osteoporosis, and heart disease as she would have been if she had never taken HRT at all.

The menopause conference last week was organised by the National Council of Women after a survey of its members revealed that 62 per cent wanted more information about the menopause.

Female hormones are often discussed at medical conferences, usually by male medical experts talking to other men. The questions asked at this meeting were sharper and more relevant because the women were interested not in tinkering with drug formulations, but in whether it was safe for them to use, how long they could take it, and whether the NHS could afford to provide it for them.

Side effects of HRT, described as "rare" at medical conferences, could not be easily swept aside here, as the sufferers stood up to tell of problems such as painful breasts, putting on two stones in weight in two months or zig zags in front of their eyes.

The Amarant Book of Hormone Replacement Therapy stresses the way HRT can slow the ageing process, but the revitalising, feed-forward factor which is so often attributed to HRT was not mentioned at the meeting. Those who asked questions were more interested in health than in dreams of eternal youth.



HRT proponent: Teresa Gorman set up the Amarant Trust and says the therapy can only help

HRT is usually started when the first symptoms of the menopause — irregular or non-existent periods, hot flashes and night sweats — appear. The principle behind it is simple enough. Between the ages of 45 and 55, women start to produce less oestrogen, the natural hormone that protects women against heart disease and osteoporosis. By replacing the missing hormone, vulnerable women can delay the onset of these diseases. However, oestrogen on its own can cause cancer of the womb lining. Unless the woman has had a hysterectomy, the hormone progesterone is added to the treatment. Although earlier fears that progesterone might block the protective effects of the oestrogen on the cardiovascular system now seem largely unfounded, it does bring on the menstrual period. If a woman uses HRT she will need to carry on using sanitary protection.

One of the most important questions for any woman contemplating HRT is how she can balance the risks and benefits. Some experts believe that HRT slightly increases the risk of breast

**'I know that
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Spain'**

Teresa Gorman

cancer; others disagree. Doctors take the line that they will provide the woman with the facts, and leave her to make the final decision. But as it took a conference of medical experts three days to thrash out a consensus on this single issue last autumn, the average patient can hardly be expected to know what is best for her.

The two women physicians at last

week's conference could not agree on the relative risks and benefits of HRT. "If there is an increase in risk, it is a small one which is controllable," Dr Godfree said. But Dr Jean Coope, a Cheshire GP who provides HRT for her patients on the NHS, believes the risk increases significantly after around ten years of treatment. After five or six years on hormone replacement, Dr Coope sends her patients for a mammogram before renewing the prescription.

Mr Tony Parsons, a consultant gynaecologist and the chairman of the Menopause Society, believes women need to be on HRT for at least two years to benefit from it, but agrees that after about ten years the risks increase.

According to Mr Parsons, the statistics have concluded that, at worst, of 100,000 women on HRT for 15 years, 187 more would die from breast cancer than those not taking hormones. However, this had to be set against the expected reductions in osteoporosis and heart disease fatalities. Among women on HRT, deaths resulting from a fractured hip are estimated



HRT opponent: Germaine Greer believes that women should feel free to mature with dignity

**'A woman
should not
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Germaine Greer

to drop by 563 and from heart disease by 5,250.

So what would Mr Parsons tell a close female relative who wanted to use HRT longer than ten years? "I would certainly want to explain the uncertainties," he said. "People vary greatly in their reactions. Some women will have nothing to do with any treatment which involves even the slightest risk of breast cancer. Someone who has nursed a relative who has had a stroke or hip fracture may look at it quite differently."

Another puzzling aspect of HRT is why its adherents focus on its ability to stop bones from thinning when only one woman in four is susceptible to osteoporosis. Suggesting that all women take hormones would appear to be the equivalent of dosing everyone in an office with antibiotics when only one of them has an ear infection.

Mr Parsons suggested that women considering HRT might have a bone scan to see if they are one of the unlucky 25 per cent, although they may well have to get this done privately. Alternatively, they may share his view that the

protection offered against heart attacks and strokes is enough in itself to justify the use of HRT.

However, Mr Parsons accepted that many women do not really like hormone replacement therapy. So what are the alternatives?

Dr Ignac Fogelman, a consultant physician and bone-scanning expert from Guy's Hospital, London, quickly punctured hopes

on middle-aged do-it-yourself bone-building. "Diet and exercise are important in adolescence, but jogging round the block and filling yourself with calcium are a joke at 50. They won't touch menopausal bone loss," he said. "For that you need HRT."

At the end of the conference my own feeling was that hormone replacement was acceptable, at least for the first ten years. However, this was not a unanimous view. The audience left the conference better-informed but not necessarily converted to the treatment. Perhaps the generation of women who road-tested what we now regard as a very high-dose Pill is not prepared for further experimentation.

Or it may be that Mr Parsons hit on the real problem. He said it takes half an hour to discuss hormone replacement properly with a patient who already knows something about the subject. Most doctors don't have the time, and many women are rightly suspicious of the busy medic whose only treatment is a briskly written prescription.

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Judging the milk of humankind

Researchers have suggested that breast-feeding may make brighter children. What should mothers believe?

Breast is best. Breast-feeding is natural and delivers exactly the right food at the optimum temperature. It creates a loving bond between mother and child and delivers immunity from illness and infection. It also, according to the latest research, gives children a valuable intelligence boost.

This is what new mothers are told these days — but is it all true? In recent weeks, there has been a world-wide debate raging among doctors and scientists as to whether there are magical ingredients contained in breast milk which confer superior intelligence.

The recent findings of Dr Alan Lucas and his team at the Dunn Clinical Nutrition Centre in Cambridge, and published in *The Lancet*, seemed to show that, at eight years old, children who had been given breast milk at birth — whether or not they were actually breast-fed — did better in IQ tests than those given formula feeds.

This extra intelligence seemed to be due to something in the milk, rather than whether the parents were more intelligent or gave more attention.

Dr Lucas' conclusions, based on a sample of 926 premature babies, were hotly disputed by other researchers. Two large-scale studies, one carried out in Melbourne, Australia, and the other at Wayne State University, Detroit, in the United States,

found that breast-fed children were brighter than the bottle-fed, but concluded that these differences were solely attributable to the greater intelligence and superior parenting of mothers who breast-feed.

In other words, these researchers could find no magic IQ factor in the milk alone. But the implication of these three studies is clear: mothers who really care about the intelligence and well-being of their children will never shove a bottle in their mouths.

During the 1960s, when the fashion for bottle-feeding was at its height, new mothers had to struggle to be allowed to breast-feed their hospital-born babies. All has changed. Thanks to intense campaigning by the National Childbirth Trust's (NCT) Breastfeeding Promotion Group, now celebrating its 25th anniversary, and also the American La Leche League, breast-feeding is encouraged at every turn.

The La Leche League is particularly militant about breast-feeding, with its insistence that feeding should be completely baby-led, and continue until the child wishes it to stop. This means that it is not all that unusual for toddlers and even two and three year olds still to be breast-fed.

Any new mother who finds breast-feeding difficult or who is not sure she wants to become a 24-hour milk-dispensing machine can now contact, free of charge, a breast-feeding counsellor, who will

come round to her house to persuade her to give her baby "the best start in life". But does all bottle and no breast really make for dull children? Dr Lucas, the head of infant and child nutrition at the Dunn Nutrition Unit, denies that he is trying to give mothers yet one more thing to worry about.

He says: "Our study has stimulated an enormous amount of debate, but what many press reports chose to ignore, is that our study concentrated solely on premature babies."

"Our data shows very strongly that there is a definite relationship between receiving breast milk and subsequent IQ even after making all the adjustments for the social class and intelligence of the parents — for premature babies."

"As some of these babies were fed with expressed breast milk because they were too small and weak to suck, it seems to us that breast milk, and not just breast-feeding, is important for subsequent cognitive development."

A number of ingredients in breast milk, such as special fats and thyroid hormone, are thought to be important for brain development and are not present in cows' milk. Formula feed manufacturers have been unable to introduce these fats into their products, as they turn the milk rancid.

"At the moment," Dr Lucas says, "we can say that there is



Breast and brain: no-one yet knows if breast milk enhances the intellectual development of full-term babies

compelling evidence that breast milk itself enhances the intellectual development of premature babies — but no actual proof.

"We simply don't know whether there is any similar benefit for full-term babies, as we have never carried out any such studies. There seem to be strong health advantages of breast milk for pre-term in-

fants, but all may be different for full-term babies.

"There is as yet, no hard evidence whatever that bottle-feeding in the West damages babies in any way, or puts them at a disadvantage."

Shirleyanne Seel, the deputy head of policy at the National Childbirth Trust, has been a breast-feeding counsellor for many years. She says: "Re-

search undertaken two years ago clearly showed that breast-fed babies suffer less from gastroenteritis, but evidence for long-term benefits is much less clear cut."

In fact, a paper in *The Lancet* in May 1988, said there was little evidence to suggest that breast milk did confer any significant long-term health benefits to babies.

The latest statistics from the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys, published in 1988, show that only half of all babies are breast-fed beyond two weeks.

Sixty-nine per cent of first-time mothers now try breast-feeding, although many choose to bottle feed second and subsequent children. Breast-feeding counsellor Mary Small, whose book *The National Childbirth Trust Book of Breastfeeding* is to be published by Ebury Press later in the year, is concerned that mothers who bottle-feed should not feel that they have failed.

She says: "While I can't personally believe that an artificial substitute can be better, it is certainly the case that middle-class mothers at least are intensely pressurised into breast-feeding these days."

"No baby will benefit from a mother who hates every minute of breast-feeding. Career mothers have been made guilty if they hurry back to work rather than continuing to breast-feed — but the statistics show that stay-at-home mothers are, if anything, more likely to bottle-feed after a couple of weeks."

Dr Mike Woolridge, of the Breastfeeding Clinical Support Service at Bristol University, says: "I would love to be able to tell mothers that their babies will be more intelligent if they are breast-fed — but at the moment the evidence we need is just not there."

As a zoologist, I implicitly believe that breast must be best, but there are simply no studies that show an overwhelming long term advantage either in terms of health, intelligence or personality. The studies carried out so far assume a cause and effect — but for all we know, there may be no actual correlation at all."

LIZ HODGKINSON

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BBC1

- 6.00 Cee-fax (48456) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (8007475)
7.15 Fairy Tales, Goldilocks and the Three Bears (r) (4260974) 7.20
Peep and the Big Wide World. Cartoon (r) (4261185) 7.35
Cuckoo! Cartoon (8435098)
8.00 News, regional news and weather (6700475) 8.15 Henry's Cat (r)
(9563017) 8.20 Favourite Songs (r) (7980456) 8.45 The New
Adventures of Mighty Mouse (r) (1101949)
9.00 News, regional news and weather (3372814) 9.05 Defenders of
the Earth (9790659) 9.25 Why Don't You...? (r) (4461494)
9.50 The O-Zone (r) (5792098) 10.05 Playdays (r) (2858974) 10.30
The New Lassie (r) (48659)
11.00 The Darkest Hour. A meditation by Archbishop Desmond Tutu
and music from the Langa Adult Choir (29746)
12.00 Children of Courage with Esther Rantzen and Gavin Campbell (r)
(8530727) 12.45 Red and Blue. Cartoon double bill (43562765)
12.55 Regional News and weather (13272833)
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather (83670920) 1.15 Neighbours.
(Cee-fax) (r) (68554253)
1.40 Columbo. Peter Falk stars as the dishevelled detective in this
investigation coming into contact with a high-tech killer. Also
starring Oskar Werner and Gena Rowlands (113982)
2.50 Film: The Prince and the Pauper (1977). Mark Lester plays two
roles in a stylish 16th-century swashbuckler based on Mark Twain's
novel. Directed by Richard Fleischer (65086388)
4.45 The Prince's A-Z. A special documentary to mark the second
anniversary of the Prince's Trust Volunteers, the Prince of Wales
talks to Simon Mayo. (Cee-fax) (7196123)
5.35 Neighbours. (Cee-fax) (r) (715291)
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Chris Lowe. (Cee-fax) Weather (922920)
6.15 Regional news and weather (817659)
6.20 Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) starring Burt Reynolds and
Sally Field. Manic comedy about a maverick driver who takes up the
challenge of collecting a truckload of illicit beer from Texas and
driving it back to Atlanta, Georgia, within 28 hours. Directed by Hal
Needham (8359659)
7.50 Comic Relief 1992 — Behind the Nose (Cee-fax) (537465)
8.00 Bruce's Guest Night. Bruce Forsyth is joined by Dudley Moore,
Paul Prosser, Ronnie Corbett, Marc Almond, Paul Nicholas and
Claire Moore. (Cee-fax) (r) (51017)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news
and weather (167277)
9.20 Comic Relief 1992 — Behind the Nose. Lenny Henry, Griff Rhys
Jones and Jonathan Ross present a behind-the-scenes look at how
last year's Red Nose money was spent. Followed by Who's
Funniest? The results of a Radio Times poll for the best comedy of
1991's Red Nose Day



Why is Africa poor? Tony Robinson in Tanzania (9.40pm)

- 9.40 The Comic Relief Snappily Titled and Utterly Spontaneous Stab
at Explaining Why So Many People in Africa Are So Damn
Poor.
● CHOICE: The centrepiece of Red Nose evening is a documentary
from Tony Robinson. With the help of local material, and inserted sketches featuring the likes of Peter Sissons,
Richard Wilson and Jim Broadbent, he presents a lay person's guide
to why Africa is poor. Those who have sat through sober
documentaries on BBC2 or Channel 4 will find nothing new but it is
right to return to the arguments and make them accessible to a
wider audience. Using a jocular style for a serious purpose, the
programme explains the effects of unfair trade, the debt burden,
environmental damage and bad government, all compounding the
vulnerability of powerless people (319140)
10.30 The A-Z of Comic Relief Comedy presented Stephen Fry, Ben
Elton and Dawn French. (Cee-fax) (438920)
11.20 The Goppy. The Last Supper. (Cee-fax) (438920)
11.35 Film: The Outfit (1974). Taut thriller starring Robert Duvall as a
convict recently released from prison who is bent on avenging his
brother's death. Directed by John Flynn (165123). Northern Ireland:
One Man's Death 11.45-1.30 Film: Crossroads
1.15am Weather (4674586)

BBC2

- 6.45 Open University: Arts — the Albert Memorial (7847123). Ends at
7.10
8.05 Film: Tarzan and the Mermaids (b/w, 1948) starring Johnny
Weissmuller in his last appearance as the Dr. Doofle of the jungle.
He meets a mermaid and battles with a giant octopus. Directed by
Robert Florey (5917253)
9.10 Film: The Man Who Came to Dinner (b/w, 1941) starring Betty
Davis and Monty Woolley. Corrosive comedy about a media legend
who terrorises a provincial family when he is forced to recuperate in
their home. Directed by William Keighley (9343291)
1.00 Film: King of Kings (1961). A moving account of the life of Christ,
narrated by Orson Welles. Starring Jeffrey Hunter. Directed by
Nicholas Ray (98102391)
1.35 Holiday Outings. The Ironbridge Museum in Shropshire (r)
(21409253)
1.40 Brum (21420746) 1.50 The Adventures of Spot. Animated antics
of the naughty pup (r) (58772340) 1.55 Sparky's Magic Piano.
Animation (1380611)



Arthur and the Green Knight: Greaser, Tomlinson (2.45pm)

- 2.45 Gwyneth. Opera by Harrison Birtwistle set in Arthurian times and
based on the medieval epic poem Sir Gawayn and the Green Knight.
Starring François Le Roux, Richard Greaser, John Tomlinson and
Marie Angel. Directed by Di Trevis (81119369)
6.00 Thunderbirds. More wooden action from the cast of International
Rescue. (Cee-fax) (239388)
6.55 Nature: Close Encounters of the European Kind. Julian Pettifer
explores the lives of the European Kind. The great eagle, the eagle
of extinction and how the EC quotas are affecting the European
fishermen who now are having to throw back nearly half their catch
in an effort to save the fish (119123)
7.25 Stabat Mater. Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos conducts the BBC Welsh
Symphony Orchestra and Chorus as they perform Rossini's choral
work, with Christine Weidinger (soprano), Ann Murray (mezzo-
soprano), David Maxwell Anderson (tenor) and Roderick Earle (bass)
(3573949)
8.30 Gardeners' World. A visit to Beechgrove in Scotland (4369)
9.00 Arena: An Argentinian Story
● CHOICE: A film of director Jana Bokova promises to
present an Argentine "never before seen on British television". Her
concern is not, thankfully, to present yet another retrospective of
the Falklands conflict but to explore lesser-known corners
Argentinian life and culture. Tonight's programme is a celebration
in images and song of the gaucho, whose place in his country's
mythology is similar to that of the cowboy in the United States. The
great eagle, the eagle of extinction and how the EC quotas are affecting the European
fishermen who now are having to throw back nearly half their catch
in an effort to save the fish (119123)
10.00 Film: These Foolish Things (1990)
● CHOICE: A short series of films from the French director
Bertrand Tavernier opens with the intimate chamber piece which
brought Bérangère Borel to the screen after a gap of 13 years.
Bogarde plays an English father seeking reconciliation with the half-
French daughter (Jane Birkin) he emotionally neglected as a child.
His wife and the girl's mother (Cécile Laure) is the other main
character in a film which revolves on a series of family discussions in
which the trio look back over the past, assess their relationships and
attempt to exorcise pains of tension. With its emphasis on dialogue
rather than action These Foolish Things is well suited to the
television screen while Bogarde's performance, subtle, intelligent
and moving, confirms him as one of our finest film actors. Let us
hope it is not his farewell (942814)
11.45 Film: Pete Kelly's Blues (1995). Jack Webb, Janet Leigh and Lee
Marvin star in this tough cut thriller with a 1920s jazz background.
Webb also directs (988833)
1.15am Weather (4674586)

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (8614388)
9.25 Cross Wits. Word game show hosted by Tom O'Connor (4447814)
9.55 Cartoon (3030274)
10.00 Film: Zorro (1975) starring Alain Delon and, in his last film, Stanley
Baker. Adventure yarn about a masked Mexican who protects the
poor early Californians from the evil Spanish aristocracy. Directed by
Duccio Tessari (73833)
12.00 Easter Meditations presented from Chelmsford prison by the
Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Rev John Wain. (Oracle) (57307)
12.30 News with Sue Carpenter. (Oracle) Weather (64452659)
12.40 Home and Away. Australian family drama serial. (Oracle)
(8334524)
1.10 Film: Return of the Jedi (1983) starring Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford
and Carrie Fisher. Part three, and possibly the last, of the Star Wars
 saga. Princess Leia is on the trail of the evil Darth Vader who is
building a new "Death Star" while the ruthless Jabba has mercenary
space pilot Hans Solo in his power. Directed by Richard Marquand.
(Oracle) (51238511)
3.30 The Young Doctors. Australian drama series set in a city hospital
(95)
4.00 World Womble Day. Animation (r) (Oracle) (543) 4.30 White
Bear's Secret with the voices of Jos Ackland, Helena Bonham
Carter and Hugh Laurie (r) (727) 5.00 Cartoon starring Duffy Duck
(7121036)
5.10 Home and Away (r). (Oracle) (8012104)
5.40 Early Evening News with Sue Carpenter. (Oracle) Weather
(693630) 6.00 LWT News and weather (933036) 6.10 The Day.
Twenty-four important hours in the life of two ballroom dancing
partners (803456)
6.15 Hollywood's Hidden Heroes. Profiles of cinema stuntmen
(488727)
7.00 The Help Squad. Michael Parkinson and his team come to the aid
of viewers with problems (6340)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (456)
8.00 Surprise, Surprise. Cilla Black and Bob Carlisle spring the
unexpected on viewers and an unsuspecting member of the
audience. (Oracle) (6185)
9.00 Heartbeat. Episode two of the ten-part drama about North
Yorkshire moorland village policeman and his wife. Starring Nicky
Batter and Niamh Cusack. (Oracle) (6949)
10.00 News at Ten with Sue Carpenter. (Oracle) Weather (350340)
10.15 LWT News and weather (258543)
11.00 Celebrating 30 years in the West: Rudolf Nureyev (10.20pm)
10.20 The South Bank Show. A repeat showing of the programme
shown last year to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Rudolf
Nureyev's emigration to the West (4436727)
11.30 The South Bank Show. A repeat showing of the programme
shown last year to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Rudolf
Nureyev's emigration to the West (4436727)
1.10 Cinema: Attractions. Film news from America (8739383)
1.50 Film: Jeremiah Johnson (1972) starring Robert Redford. Western
drama about a Utah mountain trapper who, after Indians kill his
wife and family because they wagon train unwillingly crossed a
sacred burial ground, becomes a legend. Directed by Sidney Pollack
(779168)
3.50 Beach Volleyball Special. A look at the sport that will be on
exhibition in this year's summer Olympics (5972654)
5.20 Out of Limits. Sporting action (2751437)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Anne Leuchars (60383). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (7367746) 6.25 The Wombles
(5868017) 6.33 Kaboodle II (70932) 7.00 Heathcliff (7744524)
7.25 A Chuddwood Easter (7763659) 7.50 Tooth Fairy. Where
Are You? (8438185) 8.17 Dangerous (4785098) 8.25 The
World's Strangest Sports (7437307) 8.55 The Complete
Compass. Liz Simpson with advice on competition winning
(956475) 9.25 The Munsters (b/w) (r) (4445456)
9.55 Road to Avonlea. Children's drama series (r) (5548949)
10.50 Peta Smith Specialities. The typical problems encountered by a
housewife (3480678)
11.00 Gamesmaster. Video game show (r) (8814)
11.30 Get Smart. Secret agent spoof (9543)
12.00 Kingdoms of the East: The Leopard that Changed its Spots.
(r). (Teletext) (7452)
1.00 Sesame Street. Education series for the under-fives (r) (50982)
2.00 Petronella. Animation (32265017) 2.15 Mozart's Requiem.
The Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and Chorus under Colin Davis
perform Mozart's last work (5190185)
3.20 A Passion. A contemporary re-enactment of the monumental
events of Passion week (593288)
3.35 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Women who have become emotional
prisoners discuss their problems (9331185)
4.30 Screen to One. Quick-fire general knowledge quiz (r) (369)
5.00 Film: The Moonraker (1958) starring George (Werford) Baker.
Swashbuckler about a 17th-century English nobleman who saves
Royalists from Cromwell's executioner. Directed by David
Macdonald (Teletext) (33185)
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. Final show of the series (814)
7.00 Channel 4 News summary and weather (113630) 7.02 Music for
the Dying King. Paul Vaughan narrates a performance by the
foremost specialists in French baroque music of the pieces François
Couperin wrote for Louis XIV (8307)
8.00 Brookside. Liverpool drama series. (Teletext) (5) (3630)
8.30 Short Stories: Flapping
● CHOICE: The documentary slot for directors new to television
continues to score with the freshness of the subjects. Flapping is a
rough form of horse racing, barely legal, unrecognised by the
Jockey Club and governed by the minimum of rules. A pastime born
of the industrial revolution to provide working men with an outlet
for betting, it continues to flourish and stir passions. Catherine
Bailey's film charts the rivalry between owners from Brecon and the
south Wales valleys as each enters a horse for a big race (2765)
9.00 Cheers. (Teletext) (5) (8678)
9.30 Flowering Passions: Some Like It Hot. Anna Pavlov looks at
exotic plants (r). (Teletext) (75291)
10.00 Roseanne. More blue-collar comedy. (Teletext) (5) (56678)
10.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? A comedy of the funniest moments
from the American recordings (r) (32098)



New York rendezvous: Julian Cary, Quentin Crisp (11.00pm)

- 11.00 Desperately Seeking Roger. While in New York, Julian Cary
manages to bump into Eartha Kitt, Quentin Crisp and Brooke
Shields (33949)
12.00 Film: Always (1989) starring Patricia Townsend and Henry Jaglom.
Comedy about a couple who spend their last weekend together
before their divorce is final. Directed by Henry Jaglom (71128)
2.00 Tonight with Jonathan Ross (r) (51857)
2.30 The Twilight Zone. A young woman discovers her double
(5536586). Ends at 2.55

The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video
PlusCode numbers, which allow you to instantly programme your video
recorder to a particular programme. VideoPlus+ is a service provided by
VideoPlus+ Ltd, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. VideoPlus+ is a service provided by VideoPlus+ Ltd, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

SATELLITE

- SKY ONE
● Via the Astra and Marconi satellites.
1.00 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 1.30 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 2.00 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 2.30 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 3.00 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 3.30 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 4.00 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 4.30 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 5.00 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 5.30 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 6.00 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 6.30 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 7.00 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 7.30 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 8.00 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 8.30 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 9.00 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 9.30 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 10.00 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 10.30 The 100th Anniversary of the Titanic (1912) 11.00 The 100th 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